

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## TRIBUTE TO FORT MASSAC ON IT'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 250th anniversary of one of the most important historic sites in Southern Illinois.

It was in 1757, during the French and Indian War, that French pioneers exploring the lower Ohio and Mississippi River valleys built Fort l'Ascension on a strategic bluff over the Ohio, near the present-day community of Metropolis, Illinois. Two years later, the site was renamed Fort Massiac. After the Revolutionary War, President George Washington ordered the site rebuilt, and in 1794 the fort was reconstructed as Fort Massac. The fort is the namesake for Massac County and for Fort Massac State Park, which has served generations of Illinoisans with the opportunity to see history with their own eyes; to gain a greater understanding of how our region and our nation were built; and to see the difficulties that our pioneers encountered as they settled the area we now call home. This gift is due in large part to the hard work of Friends of the Fort, and the staff of Fort Massac State Park who have preserved this treasure for us. In 1908, Fort Massac became Illinois' first state park.

Each October, Fort Massac is the site of the Fort Massac Encampment, a re-creation of life in Southern Illinois during the late 1700s which draws nearly 80,000 visitors. Several weekends during the year are dedicated to living history, giving visitors the unique opportunity to see life as it was two hundred years ago.

I want to thank Sue Barfield, President of Friends of the Fort, and Terry Johnson, site superintendent of Fort Massac State Park, as well as all the local residents and historians who have put so much dedication into preserving Fort Massac for future generations to enjoy.

## RECOGNIZING SARAH HARRIS, MICHIGAN'S 2007 "POETRY OUT LOUD" STATE CHAMPION

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Sarah Harris for her victory in the 2007 "Poetry Out Loud" Michigan State Championship.

Besting 8 other contestants from around Michigan to take the State title in March, Ms. Harris earned a trip to the National Finals held this week in Washington, DC. For the competition, each student recited three poems, and four judges graded each recitation based on five categories: Physical Presence and Posture; Voice Projection and Articulation; Appropriateness of Dramatization; Level of Difficulty; Evidence of Understanding; and, Overall Per-

formance. The three poems recited by Ms. Harris were: The Cremation of Sam McGee, by Robert Service; Mrs. Krikorian by Sharon Olds; and, The Weary Blues, by Langston Hughes.

The "Poetry Out Loud" program, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, builds on the resurgence of poetry as an oral art form. Through this important endeavor, students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage. I am proud that the Michigan Humanities Council has been a strong supporter of "Poetry Out Loud," and that Holt High School has been so active in fostering a renewed interest in poetry.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise today to celebrate Sarah Harris's extraordinary achievement. Her passion, creativity and dedication indeed serve as an example to us all. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Harris for her State Championship and to wish her the best of luck in the National Finals.

## INTERNATIONAL SOLID WASTE IM- PORTATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2007*

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I ask that my letter be inserted in the RECORD as part of the consideration of H.R. 518, the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act of 2007, which passed under suspension of the rules on April 24, 2007. This letter responds to the letter received by the Speaker from Mr. Justin McCarthy, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Congressional Affairs, and the Hon. Jeffrey T. Bergner, Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs, regarding H.R. 518.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

*Washington, DC, April 30, 2007.*

Mr. JUSTIN J. MCCARTHY

*Assistant U.S. Trade Representative, for Congressional Affairs Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Washington, DC.*

Hon. JEFFREY T. BERGNER

*Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. MCCARTHY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY BERGNER: I have obtained a copy of your April 23, 2007, letter to Speaker Nancy Pelosi expressing the Administration's concern with H.R. 518, the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act of 2007. I sponsored this bipartisan bill with the entire Michigan delegation and a number of other Members of the House of Representatives. It was favorably reported by the Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials and the full Committee on Energy and Commerce in late March and passed the House of Representatives on April 23, 2007, by a voice vote without opposition.

Your letter implies and attempts to raise concerns that H.R. 518 would somehow apply

to hazardous waste shipments or in some way would be incompatible with U.S. obligations under the North American Free Trade Agreement and WTO agreements. Neither of these observations is correct.

First, the bill expressly applies only to "foreign municipal solid waste," not hazardous waste (new section 4011 (f)(2)). Further, hazardous waste is explicitly excluded from the term "municipal solid waste" (new section 4011 (f)(3)(B)(i)).

With regard to the issue of whether H.R. 518 is compatible with our international trade obligations, the bill explicitly preserves prior law relating to international trade obligations. New section 4011(a)(3) provides as follows:

"(3) Trade and Treaty Obligations.—Nothing in this section affects, replaces, or amends prior law relating to the need for consistency with international trade obligations.

Thus, Canada retains all of its rights under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements to challenge a State action alleged to be inconsistent. Domestic waste trade measures that allegedly violate NAFTA might be challenged under the NAFTA general dispute settlement chapter.

Even where a measure is alleged to be inconsistent with NAFTA, the Congressional Research Service has noted that there may be general exceptions incorporated from Article XX of the GATT 1994 that allow parties to adopt or enforce measures necessary to protect human, animal, or plant life or health and measures relating to the conservation of exhaustible natural resources if such measures are made effective in conjunction with restriction on domestic production or consumption.

Finally, your letter states that there are other ways to address concerns about imports of foreign waste, noting as an example the U.S.-Canada Agreement Concerning the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste. I would hope you are aware that H.R. 518 is providing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with the requisite statutory authority necessary to enforce that very agreement as it applies to municipal solid waste. EPA has maintained that it cannot fully implement and enforce the U.S.-Canada bilateral agreement without the authority provided by H.R. 518 in new section 4011(c).

I also note that almost four years ago EPA officials testified that the current Administration would submit the necessary implementing legislation for the U.S.-Canadian bilateral agreement "soon." No such legislative proposal has ever been submitted by President Bush.

You should be aware that H.R. 518 directs the EPA Administrator to implement the U.S.-Canadian bilateral agreement within 24 months and, as noted above, provides the necessary authority to enforce its provisions with respect to municipal solid waste. Thus, our bill would give effect to the U.S.-Canada bilateral agreement and ensure that it is implemented. The passage of H.R. 518 is important to the people of Michigan and similarly affected States.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

I hope this correspondence serves to correct any misunderstandings concerning H.R. 518.

Sincerely,

JOHN D. DINGELL,  
*Chairman.*

Hon. NANCY PELOSI  
*Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This letter is to express the Administration's concern with H.R. 518, the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act of 2007. H.R. 518 would authorize states to restrict the receipt and disposal of municipal solid waste generated outside the United States.

The Administration is concerned that enactment of H.R. 518 would have the unintended result of increasing the disposal of hazardous waste in the United States and lead to an unnecessary trade dispute. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, approximately 230 U.S. companies, in over 32 states shipped hazardous waste to Canada in 2004 alone. If states use the authority in H.R. 518 to restrict foreign waste imports, this could provoke reciprocal actions by Canada or other trading partners against U.S. waste exports.

In addition, because H.R. 518 would authorize states to enact laws or regulations that exclusively restrict the disposal of foreign-generated waste or limit the amount of foreign waste shipped to the United States, it could raise concerns by our trading partners regarding U.S. compliance with international rules prohibiting trade discrimination. In fact, the Government of Canada has already questioned whether H.R. 518, as well as the state laws and regulations it could lead to, would be compatible with U.S. obligations under the North American Free Trade Agreement and WTO agreements.

Moreover, H.R. 518 could result in a patchwork of individual and possibly conflicting state and federal laws and regulations on the receipt and disposal of foreign municipal waste that could make it more difficult to manage cross-border waste flows in an environmentally sound and economically efficient manner.

Finally, there are other ways to address concerns about imports of foreign waste. For example, the U.S.-Canada Agreement Concerning the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste has been a successful mechanism for managing the flow of hazardous waste between our countries and illustrates how issues relating to this type of trade can be handled in a manner that does not raise concerns for our trading partners.

We appreciate your attention to these concerns. The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this report from the standpoint of the President's program.

Sincerely,

JUSTIN MCCARTHY,  
*Assistant U.S. Trade*  
*Representative for*  
*Congressional Affairs.*

JEFFREY T. BERGNER,  
*Assistant Secretary of*  
*State for Legislative*  
*Affairs.*

PROFESSOR BRIAN ROTHSCILD  
HONORED BY NOAA

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, one of the most important institutions

in the part of southeastern Massachusetts I have the privilege of representing, is the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. The school has a justified reputation as a key agent for economic and educational development in the region, particularly along the State's south coast. One of the reasons for that reputation is Professor Brian Rothschild, who was until recently the Dean of UMass Dartmouth's School for Marine Science and Technology, SMAST, and currently serves as the school's Montgomery Charter Professor of Marine Science and Technology, as well as Co-Director of the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Institute, and Chairman of New Bedford Mayor Scott Lang's Ocean and Fisheries Council.

I was delighted to learn that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, recently named Dr. Rothschild as one of the recipients of the agency's 2007 Sustainable Fisheries Leadership Awards. I can't think of anyone who is more deserving of this award, or who better exemplifies the effort to harness science in the furtherance of sustainable fisheries. I have found him to be not only an accurate, completely reliable source of information, but also someone who consistently offers creative solutions to fishery science and management problems. In other words, he not only possesses extraordinary scientific acumen—he also uses it in the service of larger, societal goals.

For him, sustainability means a fishery that supports both healthy stocks and healthy fishing communities. Knowing of his commitment to this concept, I was not surprised he was chosen to head New Bedford's Ocean and Fisheries Council. This position has given him a broader platform from which to promote sustainability, and his advice and contributions continue to be valuable, whether they relate to the recently enacted Magnuson Reauthorization bill, environmental factors that affect fish stock abundance, how to more accurately determine fish populations in multi-species fisheries, or other vital research areas.

Madam Speaker, in view of Professor Brian Rothschild's distinguished career in fishery science, and in recognition of his many contributions to that discipline in southeastern Massachusetts and all of New England, I applaud NOAA's decision to honor him with a Sustainable Fisheries Leadership Award, and I ask that the recent New Bedford Standard-Times article noting this achievement be printed here.

[From the New Bedford Standard-Times,  
April 21, 2007]

UMD'S ROTHSCILD WINS NOAA AWARD  
(By Becky W. Evans)

NEW BEDFORD.—Fishery scientist Brian Rothschild has won the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's sustainable fisheries leadership award for his contributions to marine science and education.

Dr. Rothschild, former dean of the UMass Dartmouth School for Marine Science and Technology, is one of seven recipients of the award, created in 2005 to recognize individuals, organizations and industries "whose contributions to science and management have served to promote best stewardship practices for the sustained use of the nation's living marine resources," according to NOAA's Office of Constituent Services.

"I feel very appreciative of people who recommended me for this honor," Dr. Rothschild said. "I have dedicated my whole career to service and it is nice to have some recognition."

Dr. Rothschild is the Montgomery Charter Professor of Marine Science and Technology

at SMAST. He also is chairman of New Bedford Mayor Scott W. Lang's Ocean and Fisheries Council and is co-director of the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Institute.

According to NOAA, Dr. Rothschild is "one of the most cited fishery scientists in the world," having published more than 100 scientific papers and book chapters. His research interests include population dynamics, biological oceanography, fisheries management and natural resources policy.

Before arriving at SMAST in 1995, Dr. Rothschild held professorships at the University of Washington and the Center for Environmental and Estuarine Studies at the University of Maryland. He spent a decade working for NOAA as a policy adviser and director of several offices. He has consulted on fishery issues for the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization in India and Namibia and with the governments of Great Britain, Korea, Egypt, Peru, France and the Republic of Ireland.

The sustainable fisheries leadership awards will be presented during a ceremony in Washington, D.C., on June 7.

#### A TRIBUTE TO STEVE DONAHUE

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, last week Steve Donahue, a longtime community leader and friend from my district, passed away. I want to take this opportunity to honor his life, mourn his passing and pray for his wife and four children.

Steve was beloved by his friends and neighbors. As the longtime Chief of the Pawcatuck Fire Department, he commanded an abounding level of respect among his colleagues and community, and touched the lives of hundreds.

Steve was a young man of only 48 years. Although I wish that he had more time to spend with us, Steve certainly made the most out of what time he had. It is difficult to find someone in Pawcatuck who doesn't have anything but flattering things to say about Steve.

Hundreds of people from the community came to pay their respects at Steve's funeral last Saturday. He was a man of great integrity who made friends everywhere he went.

Today I join my colleagues in Congress to celebrate Steve's life and to pray for his wife Mary Lynne, and their four children. Steve, we will miss you.

#### ARTICLE BY THOMAS M. RUYLE

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, Thomas M. Ruyle wrote an excellent article, entitled "Army Stretched Beyond Limits", which appeared in the Sedalia Democrat on April 12, 2007. This article accurately describes the current state of our Army and the challenges it faces. I wish to share Mr. Ruyle's writing with the rest of the chamber:

[FROM THE SEDALIA DEMOCRAT, APR. 12, 2007]

ARMY STRETCHED BEYOND LIMITS

(BY THOMAS M. RUYLE)

The Army is broken.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates' announcement yesterday that all active-duty soldiers currently serving in Iraq would have their rotations extended by three months is the latest evidence that our military cannot meet the demands placed on it.

Furthermore, the Pentagon this week alerted four National Guard brigades for a second tour in Iraq, long before those units have had five years at home since their last deployment, as policy dictates.

Some active-duty units, such as the 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, are serving their third tour in Iraq in four years.

They recently returned to Iraq after a shortened rest and re-training period. Newer soldiers have, in many cases, not had the time to train with their new comrades before being sent into battle.

Reserve units that have already served are woefully short on equipment and ammunition to properly retrain, either for the maw of Iraq or defending America itself. The Marine Corps recently announced that jungle training—a Corps mainstay—will be suspended as that service is forced to concentrate all resources on training for Iraq.

In the event of a major conflict erupting between the U.S. and another nation—Iran, North Korea and Pakistan come immediately to mind—America's ground forces, particularly the Army, are in no way, shape or form capable of responding appropriately.

Meanwhile, the current administration—particularly the vice president—continues to maintain that everything is progressing as scheduled in Iraq, and that anyone who begs to differ is a defeatist or unpatriotic. Trouble is, there was no schedule and little planning involved in the Iraq debacle.

The administration went to Iraq on a platform of lies, failed to heed the warnings of senior military officers and other warfare experts, and did not react appropriately when things started going bad in Iraq shortly after the invasion.

Indeed, under Donald Rumsfeld, the defense establishment followed the 'script' rather than act to prevent the looming realities that are obvious now.

Since 2001, America's military has been engaged full-time in two separate wars: The War on Terrorism (primarily in Afghanistan), and (since 2003) a second, unnecessary war that has only begotten more terrorism, further destabilized the Middle East and left America very vulnerable.

As an Army National Guard veteran of the Iraq War, I've seen firsthand the toll that a combat deployment will have on a unit, its equipment, soldiers and, their families. It takes years for a unit to properly recover and be ready to deploy again.

Sending units back to Iraq on a speeded-up schedule is a disservice to not only the soldiers and families affected, but America's long-term strategy (if there is one) in Iraq as well as America itself.

All the while, there has been no effort to expand the military or adequately address the equipment shortcomings of units after serving in the harsh climate of the Middle East.

The recent spate of Guard alerts, tour extensions and shortened rest periods are indicative of a problem that the Pentagon and administration utterly refuse to acknowledge: The United States Army is broken, and it will take billions of dollars over at least a decade to bring the Army back up to a fully competent readiness level.

## THANKING DAVID (DAVE) FOLK FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

### HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on May 2, 2007, we rise to thank Mr. David C. Folk for 20 years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives. David has served this great institution as a valuable employee for the Chief Administrative Officer.

David began his tenure with the United States House of Representatives in May of 1987 as a data communications specialist in the House Information Systems group. David's career at the House is one of consistent and steady contributions while meeting customer requests in voice and data wiring infrastructure. Specifically, David managed the rewiring upgrade of the House side of the Capitol and the Member Offices in all of the House Office Buildings.

He also was the Quality Assurance Evaluator on the original House Infrastructure contract and assisted in the development of differing voice systems such as the Member Paging System and the press secretaries systems for the broadcast media organizations. Finally, David managed the first Secure Communications program for the House and grew it from its infancy to where it is today.

David has been a key contributor to the CAO efforts on wiring infrastructure. His standard of excellence, dedication to passionate customer service, organizational skills, professionalism and ability to get the job done is well noted by his colleagues.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to David for many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the United States House of Representatives. We wish David many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

## HONORING NICK POLIZZOTTO

### HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Corporal Nick S. Polizzotto, nine year veteran of the South Bend Police Department, who gave his life in the line of duty. For the people of South Bend, Indiana, Corporal Polizzotto is indeed a hero.

On April 24, 2007, a report of gunshots brought Corporal Polizzotto and his partner, Patrolman Michael Norby, to a local motel. There, at 1:37 a.m., an armed suspect shot both policemen, killing Corporal Polizzotto. Patrolman Norby credits Corporal Polizzotto with saving his life.

Our community has lost a beloved family member, a generous friend, a devoted father and a dedicated protector. Often described as having a heart of gold, he proudly wore his uniform and bravely patrolled the streets of our city until making the ultimate sacrifice.

Born and raised in South Bend, Nick always wanted to be a police officer and graduated

from Indiana University with a degree in criminal justice. During his many years as a South-east South Bend beat officer, he received 18 commendations and was Officer of the Month in 2006.

Corporal Polizzotto leaves behind his parents, his son, Joseph, a brother and sister and countless relatives and friends who loved him. South Bend has lost a brave guardian.

Madam Speaker, we grieve for our hero, Corporal Nick Polizzotto. May God welcome him home and give comfort to his family and friends.

## IN HONOR OF PETER DELFINO

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Peter J. Delfino, a man who was famous throughout the Monterey Bay area for his great gusto for life.

Peter was born in San Francisco to Nick and Angie Delfino on December 29, 1917. His family soon moved to a farm in Moss Landing where he and his brother Louie helped with the artichokes and other fresh vegetables they grew. Peter went to work for Bank of America after graduation from Monterey High School, but his heart remained on the farm. Ten years later, he joined the Odello family in growing artichokes on the banks of the Carmel River, and he continued to farm until he retired.

The Italian community in Monterey has always provided a busy social calendar, and Peter met his wife, Mary, through these activities. They were married on September 30, 1945. They had one son, Alan, three grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Peter's other passion was picturesque properties in Carmel and Carmel Valley, Big Sur and Lake Tahoe. Family and friends spent many memorable weekends at these places, especially at his famous wild boar and lamb BBQs in Big Sur.

Peter loved being with people and belonged to several service clubs. After retirement he took great pleasure in helping friends in the construction industry with their various projects as it kept him working outside and in their company. Throughout his 89 years he enjoyed life to the fullest, and was never shy about striking up conversations with anyone he met.

Madam Speaker, I honor the life of Peter Delfino, a man who worked hard and diligently at a job he loved, and who made the world a happier place as he passed through.

## TRIBUTE TO VIVIAN BERRYHILL

### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Vivian Berryhill, President and founder of the National Coalition of Pastors' Spouses. In her role with NCPS and as First Lady of the New Philadelphia Baptist Church in Memphis, TN, Mrs. Berryhill has been a goodwill ambassador across the world, conducting global outreach on HIV/AIDS. In addition to her passionate charitable work, Mrs. Berryhill is also an acclaimed songwriter.

Madam Speaker, I commend Vivian Berryhill for her tireless dedication to numerous noble causes. After receiving a Jefferson Award and its accompanying \$500 gift, Mrs. Berryhill and her husband, Pastor Chester Berryhill, journeyed from Olive Branch, MS to Washington, DC and headed directly to the Walter Reed Army Medical Center to distribute 500 copies of Mrs. Berryhill's original song, "Tomorrow E'vrything Will B Alright." After hearing of the conditions at Walter Reed, Mrs. Berryhill was inspired to share her music and its soul-healing effects, and immediately created 500 new copies of her song and placed them onto CDs to share with our wounded soldiers.

Upon being greeted with an overwhelming show of support and the warmest of receptions, Mrs. Berryhill and the pastors' spouses will be reproducing additional copies of this song and will return to Walter Reed in 3-4 weeks to distribute them.

Madam Speaker, it is for her noble and unflagging efforts to make this world a better place that I recognize Vivian Berryhill.

#### SMALL BUSINESS LENDING IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1332) to improve the access to capital programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Small Business Lending Improvements Act of 2007. H.R. 1332 is part of an ambitious legislative portfolio that will fulfill the Innovation Agenda. I was proud to help craft the Innovation Agenda, on which our Nation is dependent for its future prosperity.

Small businesses are a big part of the U.S. economy. In fact, small businesses employ more than half of all private sector employees and pay 45 percent of the total U.S. private payroll. New jobs come disproportionately from small businesses, which generated 60 to 80 percent of new jobs in the past 10 years.

Small businesses face big challenges. Too often they must depend on costly lending alternatives, including credit cards. Personal credit cards are the primary funding source for U.S. entrepreneurs. Borrowing fees and high interest rates weigh heavily on small businesses.

As presented in Rising Above the Gathering Storm, our Nation faces unprecedented challenges to its international competitiveness and quality of life. Small businesses are catalysts for technological innovation, and the entrepreneurship of small American startups occasionally has revolutionized our economy and lives. The viability of American small businesses is inextricably linked to the future prosperity of all our citizens.

This Act makes American entrepreneurship more viable. It improves the existing 7(a) (business start-up loan) program and the existing 504 (certified development company economic development loan) program to better serve veterans, rural areas, and areas lacking

sufficient medical expertise. It improves eligibility requirements for designation as a certified development company (CDC), revises procedures around the foreclosure and liquidation of defaulted small business loans, and authorizes loans for projects that reduce energy consumption by at least 10 percent.

I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution. This can help us gain and retain a lead in economic prosperity and quality of life.

#### SMALL BUSINESS LENDING IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2007*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Small Business Lending Improvement Act of 2007 (H.R. 1332).

The U.S. maintains its position as a world leader in technological innovation and economic prosperity largely because of the talent of its citizens, its strong educational system and the entrepreneurial spirit of its small business owners. From developing innovative solutions to our most pressing problems, to successfully introducing these solutions into local and world markets, American small business is crucial to our strength as a country.

Small businesses, however, face difficult challenges. In particular, many small businesses lack capital, making it difficult to access the financing and loans they need to succeed. With fewer assets to pledge as collateral and less reliable earnings than larger businesses, small businesses have difficulty tapping into traditional business loans.

The Small Business Lending Improvement Act of 2007 is designed to provide well-qualified small businesses with greater access to capital so they can turn their ideas into profit. H.R. 1332 will allow small business to more easily acquire 7(a) loans, which will provide much-needed capital to small business entrepreneurs. H.R. 1332 directs the Administrator of the Small Business Administration (SBA) to execute rural lending outreach programs, which will aid small businesses with expenses ranging from start-up costs to equipment repairs and employee compensation. It also provides incentives to small businesses to operate in an environmentally friendly fashion.

If the U.S. is to maintain its position as a world leader in technological innovation and economic prosperity, we must do more to ensure that small businesses have the tools they need to succeed. For small businesses, access to capital is the key. It is for this reason, I ask my colleagues in Congress to join me in support of H.R. 1332.

#### IN HONOR OF THE 2007 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS FOOD DRIVE

**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the dedication and service of the

National Association of Letter Carriers. For the last 15 years the NALC has annually conducted what has become the largest food drive in the nation. This food drive is unique because it allows anyone with a mailbox the opportunity to take part. By participating in this food drive we are all building stronger neighborhoods and strengthening our local communities. Because of this event we are given the opportunity to support those in our communities who, far too often, go without.

For the past three years the sheer quantity of food collected has been staggering. Last year 70.5 million pounds of food were distributed in communities throughout this country. That was the third straight year where the amount of food distributed has exceeded 70 million pounds. Over the past 15 years the grand total of food collected is more than three quarters of a billion pounds of food. These totals have helped make the NALC National Food Drive the largest single day food drive in the nation.

This year NALC president William H. Young has challenged all of the local branches throughout the country to increase their food totals by 10 percent. This challenge has inspired one of the largest publicity campaigns in NALC Food Drive history as well as encouraged good natured competition between regional branches. I know that the Letter Carriers of 10th Congressional District of California will make us proud.

The NALC National Food Drive is distinctive in how the food is distributed. It strengthens community ties because all of the food collected by local carriers goes back into those neighborhoods. 10,000 communities across the country will be part of this amazing event. Because every pound of food goes to local food banks, the NALC National Food Drive gives everyone the opportunity to support their community. A simple donation of non-perishable food placed in the mailbox with the outgoing mail will help change the lives of those who live and work in the area. Thanks to the NALC and due to this creative and effective strategy, getting involved has never been easier.

Again, I want to congratulate the NALC for conducting such a remarkable event and I am proud to say that I will be leaving food in my mailbox on May 12th.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 27TH ANNUAL MAIMONIDES HEBREW DAY SCHOOL'S SHINING EXAMPLES TRIBUTE DINNER

**HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, the 27th Annual Maimonides Scholarship Shining Examples Tribute Dinner will be held this evening in Albany, New York. The Maimonides Hebrew Day School of the Capital District in Albany, New York has been providing quality Jewish and General Education in the Capital Region, Albany, NY since 1980. It is a beneficiary of the United Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York and has partnered with numerous area organizations and institutions over the years. Its motto is "A Beautiful Blend—Torah and Worldly Experience" following its namesake, Moses

Maimonides (the Rambam), the great scholar, codifier, physician and philosopher.

The Maimonides School will present Abraham "Avi" Losice the Dr. Morton Berger Memorial Award. The Berger Award is presented annually to an outstanding individual who combines Torah with worldly excellence.

In addition, the Maimonides School will present Zahir awards to the following persons: Dr. Joe Adler, Lori Calka, Phil Chandler, Salia Galitz, Judy Kaskel, Rivka Kochman, Dr. Michael Lozman, Thomas Nathan, Raizel Neiman, Barbara Scher, Tanya Schwartz, Rita Shachne, Chana Sidi, Jack Sissman, and Rachel Weitz.

#### CELEBRATING ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

#### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, an occasion to celebrate unique and beautiful cultures that enhance all of our lives, but also to highlight how Americans of all different backgrounds are inextricably linked in our effort to build a better future for our country and a better life for our children.

Finding unity in diversity is at the very core of what makes us Americans.

I have the good fortune of representing a very diverse region in the Bay Area—the Peninsula and part of San Francisco. With well over 100,000 Asian and Pacific Islander Americans and generations of their descendants, we have all seen first-hand the stunning contributions of these Americans to our community, and we owe them our thanks. In fields as varied as the arts, health care, business and military service, Asian Pacific Americans are central to our quality of life.

I have personally had the honor of participating in a wide variety of cultural celebrations, such as the Chinese Lunar New Year ceremony in San Francisco this year, and a Japanese tea ceremony that I am hosting for my colleagues in Washington next week. Events like these not only help preserve Asian and Pacific Island heritage, but enrich our entire community and remind us all that there is more to our world than what lies between our shores.

As we begin the celebration of this Heritage Month, it is important to take note of this year's theme: "Meeting the Challenges for Asian Pacific Americans in 2007." We do face serious and urgent challenges, including the need to secure the benefits that our Filipino-American veterans so richly deserve.

I myself am an American by choice, and I understand what it means to come to this country with nothing more than an unwavering commitment to give your children the broadest possible set of opportunities. Immigration has played a vital role in the success of this nation. Yet sadly, as many as 1.5 million Asians are currently caught in an immigration backlog for family visas, and continue to spend holidays and special occasions far away from their loved ones. The Democratic-led Congress is leading the way toward comprehensive reform that not only addresses our nation's real security needs but protects and unites families.

Once Asian and Pacific Islander Americans arrive in this country, it is our vital responsibility to protect and defend them, along with all victims of malicious, hate-motivated crime. In 2005, at least 199 people were victims of anti-Asian violence—each act a crime not only against the individual but against our country as a whole. Democrats in the House will act on the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act to give the Justice Department authority to prosecute hate crimes in which the victim was selected because of their race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

Democrats in Congress are taking seriously their responsibility to stand up for Asian Pacific American families. We are hard at work on issues that affect Asian and Pacific Islander families and all American families—critical issues such as education, health care, proper training and equipment for our troops and quality care for our veterans. We are committed to ensuring that these issues remain top priorities in the coming months.

Asian Pacific Americans in our community have proved to all of us that the American dream is vibrant, and that its great promise is kept alive when we join together to celebrate our diverse heritage. Americans' ability to not only tolerate our neighbor's different cultural background, but to embrace it, as we do this month, is at the heart of what makes the United States truly the greatest nation in the world.

#### TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN DANIEL MACLEOD

#### HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today so that my colleagues in the House of Representatives can join me in honoring the exemplary career of a constituent and fellow Coastie.

After 26 years of service, Captain Daniel MacLeod, originally of Hanover, Massachusetts, will be retiring from the United States Coast Guard on June 29, 2007. Captain MacLeod's extended résumé boasts an impressive list of accomplishments.

After Graduating the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1981, Captain MacLeod served as First Lieutenant aboard USCGC VALIANT and then as a Navy Exchange Officer aboard USS GRIDLEY. Captain MacLeod then served as executive officer of TACLET Miami conducting counter-drug operations. While serving as Operations Officer for USCGC RUSH (WHEC-723), Captain MacLeod received TAD orders to the Persian Gulf with the first group of Coast Guardsmen to participate in Operation Desert Shield. After a tour at Coast Guard Headquarters as part of the Deepwater Mission Analysis Staff, Captain MacLeod spent two years as Executive Officer of CGC TAMPA (WMEC-902). Then, in January of 2000 Captain MacLeod was assigned as Commanding Officer of USCGC FORWARD (WMEC-911). Both the TAMPA and FORWARD completed numerous counter-drug, homeland security, alien migration interdiction operation patrols.

In June 2002, Captain MacLeod was assigned as Chief of the Marine Protected Spe-

cies Division. While assigned, Captain MacLeod headed up the Maritime Homeland Security and General Law Enforcement Division. On October 1, 2007, Captain MacLeod will be retiring from the United States Coast Guard as Chief of the Deepwater Human Systems Integration Office.

As a former Coast Guard Reservist and co-chair of the Coast Guard Caucus, it is an honor to recognize Captain MacLeod's many years of admirable service. I wish him all the best in his retirement and know that his courage and leadership will be missed.

#### HONORING CORPORAL NICK S. POLIZZOTTO OF THE SOUTH BEND POLICE DEPARTMENT

#### HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Corporal Nick S. Polizzotto, a nine year veteran of the South Bend Police Department, who gave his life in the line of duty. For the people of South Bend, Indiana, Corporal Polizzotto was, indeed, a hero.

On April 24, 2007, a report of gunshots brought Corporal Polizzotto and his partner, Patrolman Michael Norby, to a local motel. There, at 1:37 a.m., an armed suspect shot both policemen, killing Corporal Polizzotto. Patrolman Norby credits Corporal Polizzotto with saving his life.

Our community has lost a beloved family member, a generous friend, a devoted father and a dedicated protector. Often described as having a heart of gold, he proudly wore his uniform and bravely patrolled the streets of our city until making the ultimate sacrifice.

Born and raised in South Bend, Nick always wanted to be a police officer and graduated from Indiana University with a degree in Criminal Justice. During his many years as a Southeast South Bend beat officer, he received 18 commendations and was Officer of the Month in 2006.

Corporal Polizzotto leaves behind his parents, his son, Joseph, a brother and sister and countless relatives and friends who loved him. South Bend has lost a brave guardian.

Madam Speaker, we grieve for our hero, Corporal Nick Polizzotto. May God welcome him home and give comfort to his family and friends.

#### IN CELEBRATION OF FRESNO COUNTY FARM BUREAU'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor California's Fresno County Farm Bureau.

Agriculture continues to be California's number one industry with Fresno County leading the way as the most productive agricultural county in California. The fertile soils of Fresno County support over 350 different crops, valued at nearly \$5 billion annually to the California economy. These crops, many of which

are grown nowhere else commercially in the nation, are shipped throughout the United States as well as foreign markets. Good farmers, favorable weather conditions and water supplies are major factors contributing to California's bountiful crops, but the role of the Fresno County Farm Bureau in Fresno County's agricultural success cannot be understated.

Fresno County Farm Bureau will celebrate their 90th anniversary during their annual banquet held on May 3, 2007. It is appropriate at this time to highlight its many achievements and to underscore the crucial role that Farm Bureau has had in supporting and advocating on behalf of agriculture in Fresno County.

The Farm Bureau is the largest organization of farmers, ranchers, business people and citizens in the United States and it continues to grow in size and stature. In California, the Farm Bureau was formed in 1919. Today, there are nearly 92,000 members in 56 counties and nationwide with over 6.2 million enjoying membership.

Two years prior to the formal establishment of the Farm Bureau in California, a group of Fresno area farmers met with the first Extension Service farm advisor assigned to Fresno County to lay the groundwork for a county Farm Bureau organization. The vision was to provide a bona fide farm organization which could disseminate information and promote better farming practices.

Ninety years later, the Fresno County Farm Bureau is the largest farm bureau in the state of California, participating in nearly every facet of farming life. The Fresno Farm Bureau, through its voluntary, elected leaders and professional staff, is dedicated to promoting and protecting the family farm and to maintaining the treasured natural resources that are so important to California and this nation's vitality and lifestyle. The Fresno Farm Bureau has committed to the protection of public health, safety and welfare. Both are accomplished by local determination and active participation in the legislative process. In fulfilling these responsibilities, the Fresno County Farm Bureau is helping local agricultural producers maintain a viable system of production and delivery of abundant, safe supplies of wholesome food and fiber to our local, national and export consumers.

I commend Fresno County Farm Bureau for the presence, dedication, knowledge, professionalism and hard work on behalf of our farmers in California. Our nation's residents as well as citizens of other nations are the beneficiaries of this amazing supply of agricultural products. Farmers, Fresno County, California and our nation can be proud of Fresno County Farm Bureau's 90 years of service.

IN MEMORY OF NICOLE REGINA  
WHITE

**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Nicole Regina White, who was tragically killed in the recent attack at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University on April 16, 2007.

Nicole was known to many as a person who possessed the heart of a servant. She found

ways to invest in those around her, whether it was through conversation, friendship, lending a helping hand, or through volunteer work. As a trained emergency medical technician, she is believed to have even been helping people in the final moments of her life. Those who were close to her know how passionately Nicole gave back to her community, classmates, teachers, and family. She was a committed member of her church's outreach program, a Sunday school teacher, an EMT for the Smithfield Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad, and a lifeguard at her local YMCA.

Many say that one of Nicole's greatest loves in life was taking care of animals. During high school, Nicole volunteered at local stables and barns to take care of horses. In this hobby, it is clear to see that Nicole's heart and mission in life was to serve and care for others. Nicole was a double-major in International Relations and German at Virginia Tech.

Nicole was a person who loved life, loved serving people, loved her family, and, most importantly, loved the Lord. Although her life was tragically cut short, many are blessed to have known and loved her.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST MAJORITY  
WOMEN CITY COUNCIL IN  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI HISTORY

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize history in the making. Today, for the first time in Kansas City, Missouri's history, a majority women's City Council will be sworn in at City Hall. While I wish I could have joined them in person in the Council Chambers I used to serve in as Mayor of Kansas City, I want to honor today's incoming Mayor, Mark Funkhouser, and the talented twelve City Council members who represent our State's largest city. Among them, seven women who are making history; by proving that our society can deliver change when the people call for it. These extraordinary women have demonstrated that the social norms by which women have traditionally been confined can be eradicated and the prospect for real change is not only plausible, but possible.

The women that stand before the City Clerk today and take the oath of office as members of the first majority women City Council are: Deb Hermann—serving the 1st District-at-Large, Melba Curls—serving the 3rd District-at-Large, Sharon Sanders Brooks—serving the 3rd District, Beth Gottstein—serving the 4th District-at-Large, Jan Marcason—serving the 4th District, Cindy Baker Circo—serving the 5th District-at-Large, and Cathy Jolly—serving the 6th District-at-Large.

Deb Hermann was first elected to the City Council in March 2003 and was immediately appointed Chairwoman of the Neighborhood and Housing Committee and member of the Operations Committee. She brought with her experience and leadership ability through active participation and involvement in nearly thirty civic and community organizations since 1979. She was a member of the Gracemor Randolph Community Council for 24 years

and served as its President from 1994 until her election to the City Council. Councilwoman Hermann served as the Chairwoman for the Property Maintenance Advisory Committee in 2001, and in 1999 was appointed as a Kansas City Plan Commission Board Member. Councilwoman Hermann has proudly served the citizens of the 1st District-at-Large for the past four years and continues to place a high priority on her commitment to neighborhoods.

Melba J. Curls has served the 41st District in the Missouri House of Representatives since 1999, ending her service in 2006 to run for City Council. While in office, she championed many causes, the most notable being legislation that extended renewal of the KC Area Transportation Authority's taxing ability to ensure that the critical needs for public transportation services remained funded in our community. This helped the less fortunate with their need for public access to jobs and health care. Curls has a long history of public service. Prior to her State election, she was employed in the Mayor's Office with the City of Kansas City, and before that, she served as a staff assistant in the Kansas City office of U.S. Senator Tom Eagleton. Curls is a life-long resident of Kansas City, and attended the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Sanders Brooks has served the 37th District in the Missouri House of Representatives since 2000, ending her service in 2006 to run for City Council. While in the State Legislature, she championed many causes, the most notable being a bill that outlined mandatory set-asides for Minority and Women-owned businesses. She has long been committed to protecting our community's history and brings that passion to fight for the causes of her constituents with her to City Hall. Prior to her State election, Brooks was successful civil rights investigator. A long-time friend and parishioner of mine, Brooks is a graduate of American University in Washington, DC where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism.

Beth Gottstein formerly served as the Resource Development Manager at the Hispanic Economic Development Corporation before stepping down to run for City Council. Gottstein has also been known to spearhead several local candidate campaigns and has long been active in our region's political organizations, including assisting with my first election to Congress. Gottstein has prior City Hall experience and has also been intimately involved with the Greater Kansas City Women's Political Caucus, a local organization that promotes women's involvement in politics. Gottstein earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Missouri and a Master's of Public Administration from University of Missouri-Kansas City.

For the past sixteen years, Jan Marcason has served as the Executive Director of the Mid-America Assistance Coalition, where she managed an annual budget of more than a million dollars and helped direct millions of dollars to local social service organizations. She was also the former President of the Women's Political Caucus. Previously, Jan's public service extended to Washington, DC, where she worked for former Vice President Walter Mondale. Marcason was born and raised in Kansas City. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education from the University of Kansas, and a Master's in Business Administration from University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Cindy Baker Circo has been a small business owner for more than two decades; she has also been the neighborhood President of the Country Valley Homes Association, an eastern Kansas City suburb, and is a former Public Improvements Advisory Council member for the 5th District. As 5th District Councilwoman, Circo plans to continue to focus on addressing the basic needs of the community, including infrastructure issues that face so many of our neighborhoods. Circo is a lifelong resident of the Kansas City area and an active member of St. Mark's Church.

Cathy Jolly has served the 45th District in the Missouri House of Representatives since 2000, also ending her service in 2006 to run for City Council. While in our State's Capital, Jolly sponsored several pieces of legislation related to reducing crime and protecting our community through harsher sentences for criminal action. Prior to her State election, Jolly served as an Assistant Prosecutor in Jackson County, where she was instrumental as the coordinator of the Drug Abatement Response Team. Jolly is also an active member of the Women's Political Caucus and a recipient of their highest award, the "Torch Award." A resident of South Kansas City, Jolly earned a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in recognizing this historical moment, the first majority women City Council in Kansas City, Missouri's history. Their past experiences and impeccable records are certainly indications of all the good that is to come. With this recognition, we join the citizens of Kansas City in paying tribute to these extraordinary women. On this historic occasion, I wish my best to our incoming Mayor, Mark Funkhouser, and all of the members of the Kansas City Council. I urge my colleagues of the 110th Congress to join me in congratulating the first majority women City Council since the establishment of Kansas City's modern government in 1925 as they set an example and precedent we can all be proud of and strive to replicate across our Nation.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL RAILROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

#### HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Chairman OBERSTAR for joining me in introducing the Federal Railroad Safety Improvement Act of 2007. This legislation is long overdue and will authorize safety programs in both passenger and freight rail that will protect passengers, workers, and the communities that our passenger and freight rails serve. It will also improve the safety of our rail infrastructure which will allow for the exceptional growth expected in both passenger and freight rail.

This legislation will make major improvements in railroad safety by requiring the Department of Transportation to develop a long-term strategy for improving rail safety, authorizing funds for the purchase of track geometry

vehicles and for the development of an underground and tunnel safety facility.

The legislation strengthens hours-of-service by mandating consecutive hours of rest, eliminates limbo time, and requires fatigue management plans. It also strengthens whistleblower protections and imposes penalties for safety, hours-of-service, and accident reporting violations.

The legislation also mandates the implementation of Positive Train Controls, improves warning systems in non-signalized territory, establishes minimum training standards, and recommends ways to mitigate health hazards.

Congress last passed legislation to reauthorize the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) in 1994. That authorization expired in 1998. Since that time, the railroad industry has changed dramatically. Economic growth and an increase in international trade have led to record traffic levels. At the same time, Amtrak and the commuter railroads—which often operate on freight rail lines—are moving more passengers, which means that there is a lot of pressure on our rail system. This has a significant impact on worker and public safety.

According to the FRA, train accidents have increased by 33 percent since 1994. Fatalities and injuries have also increased—from 12 fatalities and 262 injuries in 1994 to 33 fatalities and 734 injuries in 2005. Injuries hit an all-time high of 1,884 in 2002 due to the train accident in Minot, ND.

According to the FRA, human factors are responsible for nearly 40 percent of all train accidents, and a new study confirms that fatigue plays a role in approximately one out of four of those accidents.

Researchers analyzed the 30-day work schedules of locomotive crews preceding 1,400 train accidents and not surprisingly found a strong correlation between the crew's level of alertness and the likelihood that they would be involved in an accident. NTSB investigators have reached similar conclusions.

The hours of service law, which was originally enacted in 1907 and substantially amended in 1969, is outdated. It deals only with acute fatigue, not cumulative fatigue. Since the rail industry is markedly different today compared to 40 or 100 years ago, there are some significant shortcomings in the law.

For example, the law does not properly address "limbo time," which is the time when a crew's working assignment is finished and they are waiting for transportation back to their homes. During limbo time, crewmembers are required to stay awake, alert, and able to respond to any situation, which means that crews can be on the job for as long as 15 or 20 hours at a time. Although the NTSB has repeatedly asked the FRA to make improvements to hours-of-service and address fatigue, the FRA seemingly does not have the regulatory authority to do so.

The Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee has held numerous hearings on railroad safety, fatigue, and human factor accidents and has heard testimony from all the stakeholders and policy makers in the passenger and freight rail industry. I believe this legislation will help reduce accidents, improve rail safety, and improve the work environment for employees which will allow the passenger and freight rail industry to safely handle the future growth projected for both modes of transportation.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support this legislation and I urge its swift passage so

that we can begin to implement these important safety measures immediately.

IN RECOGNITION OF DANA J. KELLY FOR OVER FORTY YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO LOCAL 537, PIPEFITTERS ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

#### HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of my longtime friend and fellow brother of the Building Trades, Dana J. Kelly. Dana is a remarkable labor leader with a long and illustrious career in Local 537 Pipefitters Association of Boston. Throughout his tenure, Dan has dedicated his efforts to improving the lives of working men and women throughout Massachusetts.

Madam Speaker, Dana joined Local 537 in March of 1965 while attending Charlestown High School in Boston, Massachusetts. Dana's attention to detail and craftsmanship led him to become a welding instructor for Local 537. As a result of his dedication to this craft, Dana attended and graduated from the United Association's 5 year Instructor Training Program at Purdue University.

After 18 years of dedicated work and leadership, Dana was elected in both 1983 and 1985 to serve on the Executive Board to Local 537. In 1985 he was appointed Organizer of Local 537, a position he held for the next 13 years. Due to his unique leadership abilities, Dana as designated Chairman of the New England Pipe Trades Action Committee which coordinated organizing efforts throughout New England. In 1998, Dana was elected Assistant Business Manager of Local 537 and held this position for 2 terms. In 2004, he was elected Business Manager and Financial Secretary Treasurer.

Despite his various accomplishments, as his friend, I can honestly say that the title that Dana s always been most proud of and which he cherishes most, is that of husband and father. Dana has had the tremendous good fortune and distinct honor to be married to his wife Linda. Together, Linda and Dana have three wonderful children and four beautiful grandchildren.

Speaker, it is my distinct honor to join Dana's family, friends and brothers and sisters of labor to thank him for over 40 years of remarkable service to the American Labor Movement. I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating Dana's distinguished career and wishing him good health and success in all his future endeavors.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND HUMAN HEALTH

#### HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I congratulate The Institute of Environmental and

Human Health on reaching its tenth anniversary. TIEHH was established in 1997 with a mission to stimulate and develop environmental and health sciences research and education at Texas Tech University and the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center. TIEHH focuses on the integration of environmental impact assessment of toxic chemicals with human health consequences, framed in the context of science-based risk assessment to support sound environmental policy and law. Work at TIEHH has resulted in applications for homeland security and defense, including a new fabric that can protect our military and civilians from effects of chemical and biological weapons.

TIEHH first opened as the "anchor tenant" at the then-closing Reese Air Force Base, now known as Reese Technology Center, and helped make the redevelopment of Reese the most successful BRAC closure of any military base in the United States. TIEHH started with a staff of 45, comprised of faculty, staff and graduate students. TIEHH now has 200 on its daily payroll and has generated close to \$50 million in revenue, while the Institute's ripple effect on the local economy is nearly \$200 million.

Through the past 10 years, TIEHH has developed a program of national and international stature for Texas Tech and Lubbock, being described by external peer-reviews as "world-class" and with its academic program being called "the best in the country." TIEHH draws not only students from Texas but also undergraduate and graduate students from all over the United States and many foreign countries to Texas Tech. In its 10 short years, TIEHH has become one of the top doctoral producing programs at Tech.

I have worked hand-in-hand with TIEHH to secure federal funding that supports research to improve the resources available to protect our troops abroad and citizens at home from chemical and biological threats. When it comes to federally funded research, results matter, and TIEHH is quickly establishing a track record of proven results that strengthen our national security. In the next 10 years and beyond, TIEHH will continue to be a research leader in the environmental and human health field. I am proud to join the citizens of Lubbock in extending my appreciation for all the hard work and accomplishments of those at The Institute of Environmental and Human Health.

HONORING PRIVATE DAVID NEIL  
SIMMONS OF KOKOMO, INDIANA

**HON. JOE DONNELLY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the sacrifice of Private David Neil Simmons of Kokomo, Indiana, who was killed in an ambush on April 8, 2007, while serving his Nation in Baghdad, Iraq. Neil risked everything in service to America, and for that we are eternally grateful. —

Neil was the kind of kid whom everyone loved. With his big smile and enthusiasm, he made life more enjoyable for everyone around him. As someone who deeply loved his family and knew what it meant to be a great friend, he also made life better for those around him.

Neil was also a grateful person, returning to his high school to visit friends and thank teachers and mentors for their impact on his life. During one of these visits, just a couple weeks before he was set to deploy to Iraq, he ran into Janet Lovelace, a secretary at Northwestern High School. When Janet gave Neil a hug and thanked him for his service, he became teary-eyed. Today, on behalf of this entire nation, I would also like us to stop and give thanks to Neil for his service.

Upon hearing about his son's death, David Simmons said, "Freedom is very expensive. You don't know how much until something like this happens. My heart goes out to all the families that have to go through this." In the midst of so much sorrow, to remember other families is truly remarkable.

I have been privileged to speak several times with Neil's mother, Teri Tenbrook, over the past few weeks. Her courage and resolve in so tragic a time are impressive. The simple truth is that the true price of war is paid by soldiers and their families. Today I honor Neil Simmons, and I honor his family.

Neil's ultimate sacrifice puts him in the solemn and revered company of patriots who have given their lives in service to their country. My humble thanks to Neil and to his family. His name will live as long as this Nation lives.

May God grant peace to those who mourn and strength to those who continue to fight. And may God be with all of us, as I know he is with Neil.

#### THE FEDERAL RAILROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

**HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, today I have introduced a bill to reauthorize the Federal Railroad Administration, FRA, and improve the safety of our Nation's railroads.

Congress last reauthorized the FRA in 1994; that authorization expired in 1998. Since that time, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has held 13 hearings on rail safety. In the first four months of the 110th Congress alone, we have held 4 hearings on rail safety, including 1 field hearing in San Antonio, Texas. At these hearings, we received testimony from the Federal Administration, FRA, the National Transportation Safety Board, NTSB, the Department of Transportation's Inspector General, the Government Accountability Office, GAO, Members of Congress and other elected officials, the railroads, rail labor, and numerous safety organizations and experts. This bill is the product of what we have learned through these hearings.

According to the FRA, the total number of train accidents, including collisions and derailments, increased from 2,504 in 1994 to 3,325 in 2005. In 2006, the number of train accidents decreased to 2,835.

Although I am encouraged by improvements in the 2006 rail safety statistics, I believe we still have a long way to go. Serious accidents resulting in fatalities, injuries, and environmental damages continue to occur. The Department of Transportation predicts that rail traffic will more than double over the next 20

years. That increase, coupled with the fact that there are far fewer workers having to meet more demands on the railways than ever before, will only exacerbate the situation.

In 1980, 459,000 rail workers were responsible for moving 919 billion railroad ton-miles of freight, or 2,002,787 ton-miles per employee. By 2005, 182,000 workers moved 1,760 billion ton-miles of freight, or 9,670,329 ton-miles per employee. Over the last 25 years, overall rail productivity has risen 168 percent while the workforce has decreased by 40 percent. That has a significant impact on safety, in particular worker fatigue.

According to the FRA, about 40 percent of all train accidents are the result of human factors; 1 in 4 of those accidents result from fatigue. The FRA has launched a number of initiatives focused on reducing accidents caused by fatigue and other human factors. I appreciate the FRA's hard work in this area, but the FRA can only do so much when it comes to fatigue. The FRA is the only agency within the Department of Transportation, DOT, that does not have the regulatory authority to address hours-of-service. Hours-of-service for railroad employees is set forth in statute.

According to the National Transportation Safety Board, "the current railroad hours-of-service laws permit, and many railroad carriers require, the most burdensome fatigue-inducing work schedule of any Federally-regulated transportation mode in this country." A comparison of the modes is revealing. A commercial airline pilot can work up to 100 hours per month; shipboard personnel, at sea, can work up to 240 hours per month; a truck driver can be on duty up to 260 hours per month; and train crews can operate a train up to 432 hours per month. That equates to more than 14 hours a day for each of those 30 days.

Despite widespread agreement that the hours-of-service law is antiquated and in need of updating, it has been almost 40 years since substantial changes to the law have been made. In previous Congresses, I introduced legislation to strengthen hours-of-service. The railroads fought against it, stating that hours of service should be dealt with at the collective bargaining table because I believe that the safety of railroad workers and the safety of the general public, which all too often are the victims in these train accidents, should not be relegated to a negotiation between management and labor. I am again introducing legislation that strengthens hours-of-service and reduces rail worker fatigue.

My bill will: provide all train crews and signal personnel with a minimum of 10 hours of rest a day and at least 24 consecutive hours off duty in a seven consecutive day work period; prevent the railroads from disturbing their workers during rest time, keeping them from obtaining their full 10 hours of rest; limit the number of days signal personnel can exceed their hours-of-service during emergencies, consistent with dispatcher limits of not more than three days in a seven consecutive day work period; ensure that signal personnel cannot be forced to exceed their hours-of-service to conduct routine inspections, repairs, and maintenance of signal systems; eliminate so called "limbo time." Limbo time is a term used to describe the period of time when a train operating crew's hours-of-service have expired, but the crew is awaiting transportation back to their point of final release; meaning, the off

duty location or terminal point where they can go home or obtain food and lodging at an away from home terminal. During limbo time, crewmembers are required to stay awake, alert, and able to respond to any situation. Limbo time can and has kept railroad operating crews effectively on-duty for well over 12 hours, and in the case of the Union Pacific engineer involved in the 2004 Macdona, Texas accident, 22 hours (12 hours on-duty and 10 hours in limbo); require railroads to submit fatigue management plans to the Secretary for review and approval, and; provide the Secretary with the regulatory authority to reduce the maximum number of hours an employee can remain or go on duty and increase the minimum number of hours of rest.

This Act also addresses a number of long-standing open NTSB recommendations that will help prevent accidents caused by human factors, such as fatigue. Specifically, the Act requires all Class I railroads to develop and submit to the Secretary for review and approval a plan for implementing a positive train control system by December 31, 2014. Implementation of positive train control has been on the NTSB's list of most wanted safety improvements since its inception in 1990. Since that time, the Board has issued numerous recommendations to the FRA to implement positive train control after several high-profile accidents, including a 2004 accident in Macdona, Texas, and a 2005 accident in Graniteville, South Carolina accident; yet the FRA has thus far failed to do so.

The Act also requires railroads to install automatically activated devices, independent of the switch banner, along main lines in non-signalized territory to enable train crews to determine the position of a switch far enough in advance to stop a train if they discover that it is in the wrong position. In the absence of such switch position indicators, the Act requires railroads to operate trains in nonsignalized territory at speeds that will allow them to be safely stopped in advance of misaligned switches. According to the FRA, misaligned switches are the number one cause of human factors accidents.

In 2006, track-related accidents surpassed human factors-related accidents as the leading category of rail accidents. Recent accidents in Oneida, New York, Pico Rivera, California, Home Valley, Washington, Minot, North Dakota, and Nodaway, Iowa, raise serious concerns about the condition and safety of track on our Nation's railways. On April 18, as a result of the accident in Oneida, the FRA conducted an audit of CSX tracks in upstate New York and found 78 track defects and 1 serious violation. To help address these concerns and additional concerns raised by the NTSB, this Act provides funding for the Secretary to purchase 6 Gage Restraint Measurement System vehicles and 5 track geometry vehicles. This will enable the Secretary to deploy one Gage Restraint Measurement System vehicle and 1 track geometry vehicle to each of the 8 FRA regions. The Act also directs the Secretary to issue regulations within 1 year after enactment that requires railroads to manage their tracks to minimize accidents due to internal rail flaws. At a minimum, the regulations must require the railroads to conduct ultrasonic or other appropriate inspections to ensure that rail used to replace defective segments of existing rail is free from internal defects, as recommended by the NTSB; require

railroads to perform integrity inspections to manage a service failure rate of less than 0.1 per track mile; and encourage railroad use of advanced rail defect inspection equipment and similar technologies as part of a comprehensive rail inspection program. New safety regulations are also required for all classes of track for concrete ties, as recommended by the NTSB.

In addition, the Act strengthens safety on our Nation's grade crossings by requiring railroads to establish, maintain, and post a toll-free number at all grade crossings to receive calls reporting malfunctions of signals, crossing gates, and other devices, or disabled vehicles blocking such crossings, and to clear vegetation that may obstruct the ability of pedestrians or motor vehicle operators to see oncoming trains at grade crossings. The Act also requires regular reporting of current information on grade crossings to the FRA to enable States to determine where to best dedicate their resources for grade crossing improvements.

The Act also addresses some concerns highlighted in a recent audit of the Department of Transportation's Inspector General, which I requested after a series of New York Times articles alleged problems with railroad accident reporting and investigations at grade crossings. The Inspector General found that railroads failed to report 21 percent of reportable crossing collisions to the National Response Center, NRC. Railroads are required to report crossing collisions involving fatalities and/or multiple injuries to passengers or train crewmembers, and fatalities to motorists or pedestrian involved in grade crossing collisions to the NRC within 2 hours of the accident, according to FRA and NTSB regulations. Immediate reporting allows the Federal Government to decide whether or not to conduct an investigation shortly after a crossing collision has occurred. The DOT Inspector General's analysis showed that 115, or 21 percent, of 543 reportable grade crossing collisions that occurred between May 1, 2003 and December 31, 2004 were not reported to the NRC. Although the 115 unreported crossing collisions, which resulted in 116 fatalities, were reported to the FRA within 30 to 60 days after the collision, as required, that was too late to allow Federal authorities to promptly decide whether or not to conduct an investigation. This Act requires the FRA to conduct an audit of all Class I railroads at least once every 2 years and all non-Class I railroads at least once every 5 years to ensure that all grade crossing accidents and incidents are reported to the national accident database.

The Inspector General's audit also found that the Federal Government investigates only a small number of grade crossing collisions. From 2000 through 2004, FRA investigated 47 of 376, or 13 percent, of the most serious crossing collisions that occurred—those resulting in 3 or more fatalities and/or severe injuries. No Federal investigations were conducted for the remaining 329 crossing collisions. The GAO seems to agree with the Inspector General's findings. According to the GAO, the FRA is able to inspect only 2/10 of 1 percent of all railroad operations each year. Compare this to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA): In 2004, the FAA conducted on-site investigations of 1,392, or 93 percent, of the 1,484 general aviation accidents that the FAA had responsibility for investigating in

2004. Unlike the FRA, however, the FAA has an Office of Accident Investigations staffed with 8 full-time investigators whose mission is to detect unsafe conditions and trends and to coordinate the process for corrective actions. In addition, the FAA uses personnel from other disciplines to conduct investigations, including 2,989 inspectors from its Office of Aviation Safety.

Currently, the FRA relies on just 421 Federal safety inspectors and 160 State safety inspectors to monitor the railroad's compliance with federally mandated safety standards. This Act will increase the number of Federal safety inspectors to at least 800 by fiscal year 2011. The Act makes additional improvements to the FRA, modeled after similar legislation passed by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and subsequently enacted into law that created the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

Specifically, the Act: reorganizes the FRA as the Federal Railroad Safety Administration; requires it to consider the assignment and maintenance of safety as the highest priority; creates a new position (or a Chief Safety Officer); requires the Secretary to develop a long-term strategy for improving railroad safety, which must include annual plans and schedules for reducing the number and rates of accidents, injuries, and fatalities involving railroads; improving the consistency and effectiveness of enforcement and compliance programs; identifying and targeting enforcement at, and safety improvements to, high-risk grade crossings; and improving research efforts to enhance and promote railroad safety and performance; requires regular reporting of statutory mandates that have not been implemented and open safety recommendations made by the NTSB or the Inspector General regarding railroad safety; and strengthens transparency in the FRA's enforcement process.

I invite my colleagues to join me and Congresswoman BROWN, Chair of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, in our efforts to improve rail safety by cosponsor this important legislation and working together to ensure its swift passage.

#### LEGISLATION ON THE DISPOSITION OF THE OAK HILL JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

**HON. JOHN P. SARBANES**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation addressing the disposition of the Oak Hill Juvenile Detention Center in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Senators CARDIN and MIKULSKI have introduced identical legislation in the Senate.

There is consensus that the current Oak Hill facilities must be shut down. They are aging and dilapidated and not properly configured to provide rehabilitative services to the youth residing there. The legislation I introduce today would ensure that this facility is closed and a new, more modern facility is built in the District of Columbia so that residents can be closer to their families.

HONORING UCSB, WINNER IN THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S CAMPUS ECOLOGY 'CHILL OUT' CONTEST

## HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor the University of California, Santa Barbara, which is located in my district. UCSB was recently named a winner in the National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology "Chill Out" contest, a competition that recognizes colleges and universities nationwide that are implementing innovative programs to reduce the impact of global warming. UCSB was one of eight universities chosen to receive the award from over 100 entries.

This prestigious award was given to UC Santa Barbara for its efforts to become a carbon-neutral campus through energy conservation. The project started in 2005 when students from the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management created a Master's group project entitled "Campus Climate Neutral." At a public university dealing with tightening budgets, energy conservation emerged as a solution that would both lower the school's environmental impact and cut expenditures for purchased utilities.

UC Santa Barbara has found ways, through ingenuity and imagination, to provide increased space for research, education and living, while limiting the school's environmental impact. I continue to be proud of UCSB's numerous environmental and academic accomplishments, and encourage them to continue in their noble goal of reducing the campus's greenhouse gas emissions.

Go Gauchos!

TRIBUTE TO PAUL E. DWYER OF CRS

## HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the Congressional Research Service's (CRS) finest employees; Paul E. Dwyer, who will retire on May 3, 2007, from his position as Specialist in American National Government after a distinguished career of 39 years service to Congress and the Nation.

A native of Texas, Paul Dwyer received a Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science from Baylor University, in Waco, in 1967, and went on to earn a Masters in Political Science from George Washington University, here in Washington, in 1968. While finishing his course work at GW, Paul worked part time in the office of Congressman W. R. (Bill) Poage, one of the legendary Texans who served with such distinction in the House of Representatives in the 20th century. Paul's work experience on Capitol Hill convinced him to enter the profession of public service, and he applied for a position with what was then known as the Legislative Reference Service shortly after graduation. He began his career

at the Library of Congress, on October 8, 1968 as analyst in American National Government.

Paul Dwyer began his CRS career with the basics—his first years constituted an apprenticeship during which he received assignments in a wide range of policy issues. He identified and progressively mastered the sources of information needed to respond to requests for information and public policy analysis by Members and committees of Congress and their staff. This was in the pre-internet era, when the instant desktop availability of information resources was a futuristic dream, and research often meant hours of digging for obscure sources in the Library's great collections, in other libraries, executive branch agencies, the National Archives and non-governmental organizations, as well. It took dogged persistence, careful organizational skills, plenty of shoe leather, and a limitless supply of number two lead pencils to do the work.

It was during this period that Paul also had an active role in supporting Congress as this body investigated the greatest political scandal in 20th century American history—Watergate—and undertook the ensuing impeachment inquiry that led to Richard Nixon's resignation as President of the United States. Paul served on the CRS teams that provided assistance to the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities, Senator Sam Ervin's famous "Watergate Committee." He and his colleagues again provided invaluable assistance to the Judiciary committee of this House of Representatives as it pursued its impeachment inquiry. CRS added further laurels when it provided crucial information on the nominations of Gerald R. Ford and Nelson A. Rockefeller as Vice President, the historic first implementations of Section One of the 25th Amendment. These were, to borrow from Doris Kearns Goodwin, "no ordinary times," and Congress came to depend again and again on the accuracy, dedication and professional skill of the Congressional Research Service and staff members like Paul Dwyer.

Paul Dwyer's research portfolio was broad in those years, and included many diverse areas, including presidential elections and the Electoral College, the presidency and presidential terms of office, American political history, U.S. political parties, and voting trends in Congress, to name a partial list. Beginning in the early 1970s, Paul moved into the area for which he would become justly respected throughout Congress and the Capitol Hill community. He learned and mastered the many elements of the internal governance of the Congress and its supporting agencies and organizations. His areas of unquestioned expertise include an intimate knowledge of the legislative branch budget in all its many ramifications; salaries, benefits and retirement programs for Members of Congress and their staff; congressional support agency budgets; contingent expenses in both the House and Senate; Member memorials; committee funding; the Capitol Visitor Center, and the all-important area of Capitol security and the safety of those who work in the Capitol Complex, and the millions of citizens who visit the Hill every year.

He has become the "go-to" staff person at CRS on the legislative budget, where the depth and breadth of his knowledge, his attention to detail, judgment, and perspective are universally recognized. This trust has been

well-earned—Paul has worked professionally and amicably with Members and staff of both political parties, and is respected by all his clients. The House Committee on House Administration, the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, and the legislative branch appropriations subcommittees of both chambers have benefited from his keen analytical skills. He has worked closely with the office of the Architect of the Capitol, the Sergeants at Arms of the House and Senate, the Chief Administrative Officer of the House, and the Chief of U.S. Capitol Police. As coordinator of and primary contributor to the CRS annual Report to Congress on legislative branch appropriations since its inception, he has provided a valuable source of record for over a decade.

Aside from hundreds, if not thousands, of personal meetings, telephone briefings and email colloquies over the years, the volume and scope of his written work is impressive. He is the author or co-author of 21 active or archived CRS Reports for Congress, and during the 39 years of his career, he has written over 450 additional CRS Reports, Issue Briefs, and confidential memoranda for Congress. On a personal level, in the past decade, he has also provided expert and sensitive mentoring to a new generation of CRS analysts, generously sharing his knowledge and perspective with them, and helping them develop their own interests and expertise.

Paul's fine work and dedication first came to my attention soon after I was appointed Ranking member of the Committee on House Administration in 2003. As the Representative from the Nation's insurance capital, Hartford, and as the former owner of an insurance company, I wanted to be sure that the House was getting the maximum possible advantage from the money spent on insurance and other benefit programs for members and staff. Paul quickly assembled a team of CRS experts from the various CRS divisions which were assigned to cover these issues to bring me, the Committee staff, and the other members of the Committee up to speed on the programs and helped us analyze their merits. Paul was also an invaluable resource for us when we were dealing with the myriad of other issues which came before the Committee, especially the funding of the other House committees. He has also played an instrumental role in helping to write the story of the Committee, which was one of my first requests of CRS upon becoming Ranking member. Paul has continued to be a primary resource for me in my new position as Vice Chair of the Democratic Caucus and has provided me with superior reports and memos on member compensation, Legislative Branch appropriations, and the duties of the House officers, to name a few. While I wish Paul well in his retirement, my staff and I will certainly miss his prompt and thorough responses for research and information.

Paul Dwyer has been recognized by CRS and the Library of Congress again and again for the quality of his work. His performance evaluations routinely noted his commendable and outstanding level of performance. He has been honored with 13 Library of Congress Special Achievement Awards during his career.

In a sense, Paul's career coincides with the era in which CRS came to maturity, evolving, under congressional guidance and stewardship, into the world's finest legislative policy institute, the envy of world parliaments and our

own executive branch, and the close adviser and trusted resource of the United States Congress. Paul exemplifies the best characteristics of this tradition: knowledge, perspective and judgment, and a commitment to providing Congress with information and analysis that is correct, complete, balanced and non-partisan. CRS, Congress, and in the larger sense, the American people, will lose a tireless and dedicated public servant when Paul E. Dwyer retires. Madam Speaker, I would like to urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Paul for his 39 years of exemplary service, and in offering him every good wish as he begins his retirement.

IN MEMORY OF MATTHEW  
GREGORY GWALTNEY

**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Matthew Gregory Gwaltney, who was tragically killed in the recent attack at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, on April 16, 2007.

Matthew was known for his deep love for his family and friends and for his cheerful disposition. Having graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Virginia Tech in 2005, Matt was just weeks away from graduation day where he was receiving his Master's degree in civil and environmental engineering. Matt was an honors student devoted to learning and eager to improve human awareness of the environment and the overall quality of life. His high school teachers and college professors alike regularly praised his outstanding character and loyalty to those he loved.

Matt's family and friends also knew him as an avid sports fan. As a high school basketball player, Matt was not only acknowledged by his teammates as a dedicated player, but as a close friend. Matt maintained those close relationships even as he went away to college and later began his graduate program. At Virginia Tech, Matt regularly built and maintained friendships around sports through games of pick up basketball, and impressed many with his abundant knowledge of sports facts. It is said that his favorite place at Virginia Tech was Cassell Coliseum and that Matt never missed a Hokie football game.

Although Matt's time with us has ended all too soon, I know that his love for his family and friends and commitment to learning will inspire many in years to come. Matt has left a legacy within his generation that will not soon be forgotten.

IN HONOR OF DR. ARTHUR J.  
AMMANN

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Chairman, it is a privilege and a great personal pleasure to join in honoring my old friend and classmate, and a great humanitarian leader, Dr. Arthur J.

Ammann. Art's selection as Alumnus of the Year at Wheaton College will stand as one of the defining moments in the proud and distinguished history of this institution, because it recognizes a compassionate, courageous man who has made a world of difference in our world.

As young Wheaton College students, Art and I lived the vow of poverty, as do college students everywhere. One of my most cherished memories is Art inviting me to join his family in Brooklyn, New York, during a holiday. Suffice to say that was the first time I had ever been to Brooklyn, and the visit opened the eyes of this young, naive suburban Chicago kid, teaching me that we all share the same hopes, dreams and aspirations for a brighter tomorrow, no matter our surname or address.

The Bible and this institution call upon us to live the teachings of the Lord, and there is no better example of living Christianity than Art Ammann. He began his professional career—as did I—by taking an oath to use all of his powers to heal the sick. While the oath comes from the Greek philosopher Hippocrates, the faith to heal comes directly from the Bible: “My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.” (Proverbs 4:20–23)

Art is a brilliant physician who has focused his intellect on healing children and finding a cure for the HIV/AIDS pandemic that has claimed so many lives and robbed so many nations of an entire generation. While my old friend is far too modest to seek recognition, the truth is, without Art the death toll would be higher and hope for a cure would be lower. It was Dr. Arthur Ammann's pioneering research in the early 1980's, before the world knew of this terrible disease, that identified two of the three ways HIV is transmitted, and it was Art who first diagnosed the HIV infection in children.

As a man of unwavering courage, compassion and conviction, Dr. Arthur Ammann did not confine his leadership exclusively to the field of medical research. Over the years, Art has served his community and country in pre-eminent roles such as the Presidential Task Force for AIDS Drug Development, and he has been honored many, many times. This prodigious man of science has authored or co-authored, quite literally, hundreds of books and scientific articles, and he didn't hesitate when asked to guide Wheaton College as it prepared its response to the HIV/AIDS crisis.

As a visionary scientist and yet a humble servant of the Lord, Dr. Arthur Ammann always has plowed the fruits of his labor back into the soil, so that it might nourish, protect and save others. Art founded Global Strategies for HIV Prevention 10 years ago. It quickly has become a widely respected non-profit organization, dedicated to preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS, and supplying life-saving medicine to women and children worldwide. How purely this work reflects the words of the Bible: “. . . Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God . . .” (Matthew 5:3–11)

Dr. Arthur J. Ammann has spent a lifetime displaying the strength of a lion, a heart of

gold, and a spirit of living life according to the teachings of Jesus. His wife, Marilyn, and his children, Kimberly and Scott, have long known what many now will understand: Dr. Arthur J. Ammann is a good man, who does the Lord's work for the sake of peace and humanity. My friend Art Ammann is an uncommon man who renews our faith by the way he lives his faith.

Best wishes and congratulations to Dr. Arthur J. Ammann, the 2007 Wheaton College Alumnus of the Year for Distinguished Service to Society.

HONORING PATROLMAN MICHAEL  
NORBY OF THE SOUTH BEND POLICE DEPARTMENT

**HON. JOE DONNELLY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I honor a brave man who has served his country in the military and his community as a patrolman in the South Bend Police Department. Patrolman Michael Norby put his life at risk in the execution of his duty. In the early morning of April 24, 2007, he and his partner, Corporal Nick Polizzotto, confronted an armed suspect. Both officers were shot; Corporal Polizzotto died and Patrolman Norby was injured. The two officers responded to a report of gunshots without regard for their own safety, only the safety of the community.

During his one and a half years on the force, Michael has received three commendations. Prior to his service on the police force, he served with the United States Army in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom earning the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, “M” Device Award and Noncommissioned Officer's Professional Development Ribbon.

Madam Speaker, I commend the men and women who dedicate their lives in the service of others, particularly Patrolman Norby, to whom we owe deep gratitude.

RECOGNIZING BELLS FOR PEACE,  
INC.

**HON. ROBERT C. “BOBBY” SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bells for Peace, Inc., a non-profit, charitable organization founded within my district in Richmond, Virginia. Bells for Peace is dedicated to enriching the history of Virginia Union University by restoring the University's prominent cornerstone, the Belgian Friendship Building and its Vann Memorial Tower.

Bells for Peace was founded on December 8, 2004 in Richmond, Virginia by Mrs. Diane Watkins, its current President. The organization was created in memory of the late Dr. John Malcus Ellison, Sr., the first African American President of Virginia Union University, and his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Balfour Ellison. Dr. Ellison was dedicated to bringing peace and unity to the cultural divide within

this country, and he believed a multi-cultural education could be used to achieve this. Bells for Peace is an effort to carry on Dr. Ellison's life's work.

As part of this effort, Bells for Peace hopes to install a 35 bell carillon in the University's empty Vann Memorial Tower, which sits atop its Belgian Friendship Building. In 1939, the Belgian Government presented the Friendship Building and Tower to Virginia Union in a gesture of international goodwill. The Friendship Building had been the centerpiece of the Belgian Pavilion at the 1939 World's Fair in New York. However, prior to presenting the structure to Virginia Union, the Belgians removed the bell carillon and awarded it to President Herbert Hoover. President Hoover gave the carillon to his alma mater, Stanford University, where the bells now ring at the Hoover Institution of War and Peace.

The Belgian Government selected Virginia Union for the gift from 27 colleges that desired the Friendship Building and Tower. Virginia Union was selected because of its location, history, and mission. Where better to place a symbol of peace, hope, and unity than in Richmond, Virginia, the former capital of the Confederate states that nearly burned to the ground when the Southern troops fled the city. Where better than on a campus that was first located in a rented structure known as Lumpkin's Jail, a former slave holding pen. And where better than at a University that was born of several small colleges dedicated to the dignified education of African Americans, while struggling against post-Civil War prejudice. In 1899, these colleges joined together in a "union" that opened its doors as Virginia Union. The Belgian Government recognized this significant history and felt that its "Friendship Building" would be best served on the shores of the James River in Richmond.

Following the Belgian Government's decision to give the structure to Virginia Union, Dr. John Malcus Ellison single-handedly raised \$500,000 in donations to transport and re-construct the Friendship Building on the Richmond campus. Shortly thereafter, the Friendship Building was used by the U.S. Armed Forces as the Eastern Virginia induction site for soldiers going off to fight in WWII. It was within this building that thousands of African American soldiers were processed into the military. It was also through this building that the late Vice Admiral Samuel L. Gravely frequently passed. Vice Admiral Gravely, a Virginia Union graduate, was the first African American to achieve the rank of Admiral and command a Naval fleet.

Because of its remarkable history, the Belgian Friendship Building has been designated a United States National Treasure and Virginia Historical Landmark, but its majestic tower, which can be seen from many vantage points in the Richmond community, remains empty and silent. Bells for Peace, in its quest to obtain a new carillon for the Vann Memorial Tower, hopes to change that. Bells for Peace is also working to restore the aged and worn Friendship Building, so that it may become a top-quality facility for students pursuing a multi-cultural education.

Through its restoration efforts, the organization has brought much deserved attention to this historical landmark and highly respected Virginia Union University. Bells for Peace calls on people to recognize the importance of an international "Friendship" building and symbol

of peace, hope, and unity erected at a historically black college; a college known for its multi-cultural studies and graduates who have made contributions to communities around the world. Bells for Peace calls on people to remember the legacy of Dr. John Malcus Ellison, who not only helped bring the Friendship Building to Virginia Union, but also helped established the University's reputation for excellence in education.

Madam Speaker, today it is my privilege to recognize Bells for Peace and commend it for its admirable mission. I also wish the organization great success in restoring the Belgian Friendship Building and filling the belfry tower with a carillon of bells that can be enjoyed on the Virginia Union campus and in the Richmond community, and symbolically heard in communities around the world.

**RECOGNIZING DAISAKU AND  
KANEKO IKEDA FOR THEIR  
INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions to our community and the international achievements of Daisaku and Kaneko Ikeda. Daisaku Ikeda is the President of Soka Gakkai International (SGI), a Buddhist association of approximately 12 million members in over 180 countries, including members throughout the United States and in my home district of Guam. The Ikedas have dedicated their lives to the promotion of international peace, the protection of religious freedom, and the safeguarding of fundamental human rights. Soka Gakkai International was formally established on January 26, 1975 in a ceremony on Guam which was attended by representatives from around the world. Guam has since welcomed this organization and its leaders on various occasions and we continue to value our friendship with the Ikedas and Soka Gakkai International members.

Daisaku Ikeda's leadership has been recognized by many international organizations. He was awarded the United Nations Peace Medal, the Simon Wiesenthal Center's International Tolerance Award and the Rosa Parks Humanitarian Award. Daisaku Ikeda is the founder of numerous educational and cultural institutions in Japan and the United States. He founded the Tokyo Fuji Art Museum, the Min-On Concert Association, the Boston Research Center for the 21st Century, and the Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy Research. A prolific writer and poet, Daisaku Ikeda has published more than 200 works in more than 25 languages, all in his effort to promote peace and international understanding. He has been conferred over 200 honorary degrees from universities throughout the world.

Kaneko's partnership with Daisaku began with their marriage on May 3, 1952, and since then, they have been a dynamic team that mutually supports each other's work. Kaneko Ikeda shares her husband's philosophy and his drive to work for the benefit of all people. She has been commended for her work in the field of education and the humanities and as a proponent and ambassador for peace. She has been recognized for her good work by

being named an honorary citizen of Italy, Switzerland, Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, and Australia.

Daisaku and Kaneko Ikeda have dedicated their lives to the advancement of mankind and the promotion of peace through the improvement of individual lives. They are powerful advocates of social change and goodwill ambassadors for all of humanity. The international community has recognized and honored their continuing efforts to advance social justice based on universal values of equality and dignity. They are truly world class citizens whose efforts on behalf of many people, especially those struggling for human rights, should be recognized. Today we commend them for their lifetime of humanitarian work and we congratulate them on their fifty-fifth wedding anniversary. We commend them as leaders of Soka Gakkai International for their contributions to the international community and to the local communities in our Nation where their members are making individual contributions for peace and freedom.

**4TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
SPEECH PRESIDENT BUSH GAVE  
ON THE DECK OF THE U.S.S.  
"ABRAHAM LINCOLN"**

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, today marks the 4th anniversary of the speech President Bush gave on the deck of the U.S.S. *Abraham Lincoln* in which he told the American people that hostilities in Iraq and Afghanistan were over.

Standing under a broad "Mission Accomplished" banner, the President congratulated Defense Secretary Rumsfeld for a job well done and declared Iraq free and the Taliban and Al Qaeda in Afghanistan destroyed.

Like many Americans, the image of the President under that banner 4 years ago still stands out because each passing year is a reminder that the mission has not been accomplished, Iraq is not a safer place, and neither the Taliban nor Al Qaeda have been destroyed.

The President and his advisors try to distract the public with evocative images and declarations about success in Iraq and Afghanistan. But no amount of spin can disguise the harsh reality of the desperate situation on the ground.

On that day 4 years ago, when the President declared an end of hostilities, there were 142,000 American soldiers in Iraq. Today there are 155,000. On May 1st, 2003, there had been 138 American casualties and 542 wounded in Iraq. Today the number of casualties is 3,351 and the number of wounded is 25,090.

The Iraqi people have also paid a dear price during this war. Though exact numbers are difficult to find, the estimated number of Iraqi civilians killed by violence since May 2003 is between 53,000 and 63,000. One controversial study in 2004 estimated that as many as 655,000 have been killed. Today the President had an opportunity to change direction in Iraq and begin to bring the war to an end. He squandered that opportunity.

The Congress sent the President a bill that would hold Iraqis accountable for taking the steps necessary to achieve political reconciliation and greater stability. The bill also provided additional funding to go after Osama bin Laden, the Taliban and Al Qaeda. By vetoing the bill, the President missed an opportunity to change direction in Iraq and finish the job in Afghanistan.

The situation in Afghanistan remains grim. On this day 4 years ago, the President told the American people, "In the Battle of Afghanistan, we destroyed Al Qaeda and the Taliban." In speech after speech, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and other senior U.S. officials claimed that Al Qaeda had been routed.

But the reality is that 4 years after the U.S. invasion, the Taliban have regrouped and remains a serious threat. In fact, a new Jihadist sanctuary appears to be emerging on the Afghan-Pakistan border.

By almost any metric, whether it is the number of Iraqi schools being built or the number of Afghan roads secured, it is clear that the mission in Iraq and Afghanistan is far from accomplished. But it is also clear that Americans no longer have the patience for impressive photo ops and overblown pronouncements about completed missions. The American public wants achievable goals and quantifiable results—not slogans.

#### A TRIBUTE TO OLIVER WHITE HILL

**HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Oliver White Hill, who dedicated his life and legal talents to making the City of Richmond, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and this entire country a place of promise and opportunity for all. Mr. Hill used his legal talents to bravely confront and help eradicate decades of racial inequality and injustice.

Oliver White Hill was born Oliver White in Richmond, Virginia. After his mother remarried, the Hill family moved to Washington, DC, where Oliver White Hill graduated from the legendary Dunbar High School. Mr. Hill went on to earn his undergraduate degree from Howard University, and then attended Howard University's Law School, where, as destiny would have it, he was a classmate, rival in academic achievement, and close friend of Thurgood Marshall. Upon graduating in 1933, second in his class only to the future Supreme Court Justice, Mr. Hill spent his early years as a civil rights attorney in Richmond, Virginia.

It was there that Mr. Hill grudgingly worked within the confines of the separate-but-equal framework of *Plessy v. Ferguson*, but he fought hard for better pay, full access to trans-

portation, and better educational facilities for African American teachers and students. In fact, in 1940, working with civil rights legal stalwarts Thurgood Marshall, William H. Hastie, and Leon A. Ransom, Mr. Hill won his first of many landmark cases in *Alston v. School Board of Norfolk, Va.* In *Alston*, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ordered equal pay for black and white teachers within Norfolk's school system. Despite the decision, Mr. Hill was not completely satisfied as race barriers remained, and, as he once said, "I went to law school so I could go out and fight segregation."

That fight would have to wait. Oliver White Hill joined the Army in 1943 and admirably served his country in the European Theatre in World War II. After a distinguished military career, Mr. Hill immediately began to fight for democracy on a different front—back in the courts against racial discrimination.

Soon after his return, Oliver White Hill won the right for equal transportation for Black school children in the Virginia Supreme Court. But once again, he was not satisfied with this "separate-but-equal" victory. The course of history was about to change, however, as Mr. Hill partnered with another civil rights legal legend, Spottswood Robinson III, in 1948.

Together, Mr. Hill and Mr. Robinson brought dozens of civil rights lawsuits against school districts throughout the State of Virginia, with as many as seventy-five (75) cases pending at one time. By some estimates, Mr. Hill and Mr. Robinson brought more lawsuits than the total filed in all the other Southern States during this era.

Despite the burning of a cross in his front yard and despite almost daily threatening telephone calls to his home, Mr. Hill persevered. In 1951, undeterred and emboldened, Oliver White Hill and Spottswood Robinson decided to move beyond "separate-but-equal" and attack segregation head-on.

That year, Mr. Hill and Mr. Robinson shouldered the cause of the African American students at the all-black R.R. Morton High School in Farmville, VA, who had walked out of their leaking, poorly heated classroom building. The resulting desegregation lawsuit, *Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County*, was one of several cases decided collectively as *Brown v. Board of Education* by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1954.

While Oliver White Hill is best known as the fierce, tireless civil rights litigator who helped bring to a close America's segregation-era, his involvement in the community went beyond the courtroom. In 1949, he became the first African American elected to the Richmond City Council since Reconstruction. In the early 1960s, Mr. Hill served as Federal Housing Commissioner in the Department of Housing and Urban Development. In addition to his local and Federal government posts, Mr. Hill served as an officer or member on the boards of many organizations, including the National Legal Committee of the NAACP, the National Bar Association, the Southern Conference for

Human Welfare, the Virginia State Bar Bench/Bar Relations Committee, and the Old Dominion Bar Association, which he co-founded.

For his decades of dedication to the law and accomplishments in the field of civil rights, Oliver White Hill has earned many accolades, including the "Lawyer of the Year Award" from the National Bar Association in 1959, the "Simple Justice Award" from the NAACP Legal Defense Fund in 1986, and the "Justice Thurgood Marshall Award" from the American Bar Association in 1993. In 1999, President Clinton awarded Mr. Hill the highest honor the nation can bestow, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. A year later Mr. Hill received the American Bar Association Medal, the National Bar Association "Hero of Law Award," and the "Harvard Medal of Freedom" for his role in the landmark *Brown* decision. Most recently, in 2005, Mr. Hill was awarded the NAACP's highest honor, the Springarn Medal.

In 2000, several legal admirers founded the Oliver White Hill Foundation. The Foundation encourages young lawyers to become advocates in the field of individual rights and liberties and to carry on Mr. Hill's civil rights work. Lawyers inspired by the Foundation work with the hope that discrimination based on race, gender, national origin, sexual preference, and religion will ultimately be abolished, just as Mr. Hill has spent his life hoping for and working towards.

Madam, Speaker, I offer my congratulations to Oliver White Hill and pay tribute to him for being one of history's most important civil rights legal pioneers.

#### CONGRATULATING MR. BILL MULLICAN

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Bill Mullican of Lubbock, Texas on his recent appointment to the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT).

Mr. Mullican was appointed to the NACEPT by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, Stephen Johnson, on April 23, 2007. The Council is comprised of outside experts representing diverse interests from academia, industry, non-governmental organizations, and state, local and tribal governments. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the NACEPT for the purpose of providing expert advice to the EPA Administrator on a wide array of environmental policy, technology, and management issues. Due to his vast knowledge of water development policies and issues, Mr. Mullican will prove to be a valuable asset to the NACEPT.

A native of Lubbock, Texas, Mr. Mullican graduated from Texas Tech University with a

B.S. degree in Broadfield Science Education, and later an M.S. in Geology. From 1983 to 1997 he was Research Associate at the Bureau of Economic Geology at the University of Texas at Austin. Later that year, Mr. Mullican began his career at the Texas Water Development Board, first serving as Director for Water Resources Planning, then as Deputy Executive Administrator for the Office of Planning. While serving as Deputy Executive Administrator, his areas of responsibility included water data collection, environmental programs, and research and planning fund management. As a leading authoritative figure for state water planning, Mr. Mullican assists other States such as California, Illinois, Indiana, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania in establishing statewide water planning initiatives.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Bill Mullican for years of hard work and dedication. As a citizen of Texas, I am truly grateful that he has continuously taken a proactive role in our water development. I am pleased to join his friends, family and colleagues in congratulating him on this prestigious milestone.

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OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL ACE  
MENTOR PROGRAM

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**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise to honor four outstanding individuals, Chris Avery, Clint Coffelt, Anh Nguyen, and Steven Yung who competed and finished in third place in the Ace Mentor/Construction Industry Round Table 2007 Design Competition Awards Program, representing Oak Park High School. The Oak Park team designed a small sports complex that would offer an opportunity for kids and young adults to escape the local streets.

The ACE mentor program was designed to help high school students who are interested in careers in architecture, construction, or engineering. Students are introduced to the various design professions and the role that each performs in planning, designing and constructing a project. Students in this program gain firsthand insight into the design industry by touring project offices, visiting active construction sites, and by working closely with their mentors on "real world" projects.

Also, I want to recognize the great leadership of the team including Amy Light, the math and science coordinator for the North Kansas City School District. It is also important to acknowledge the parents, family, mentors and friends who have helped these students succeed in their academic efforts.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating the Oak Park High School Ace Mentor Team on their achievements and wish them the best of luck in their future academic endeavors. It is an honor to represent this team in the U.S. Congress.

INTERNET GAMBLING

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 2046, the Internet Gambling Regulation and Enforcement Act. Last year, a ban on internet gambling was snuck into a port security bill. This ban on internet gambling is an outrageous affront to individual freedom. H.R. 2046 restores respect for the right to patronize internet gambling sites as long as the sites follow certain Federal laws. The bill does not create new Federal laws, and it respects the authority of States and Native American tribes to regulate gambling. I hope all my colleagues will join me in cosponsoring this bill and restoring respect for the American people's right to decide for themselves whether or not they gamble online.

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SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF  
EQUAL PAY DAY

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**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of ensuring equal pay for equal work for all Americans.

Since 1963, when President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act into law, women have made significant strides in the workplace. However, there continues to be a wage gap, and in 2006, women earned 77 cents for every dollar earned by men. A new study by the American Association of University Women finds that just 1 year out of college women are earning only 80 percent of what men earn, and by 10 years after graduation the gap has widened and women are making only 69 percent as much as men.

More than 40 years after the Equal Pay Act was signed into law, a woman has to work nearly 16 months to earn an amount equal to the amount a man earns in just 12 months. This gap results in \$250,000 in lost wages over the course of the average woman's life. This wage gap not only affects a woman's current income, but often means she will have less money available to her in retirement. For women of color the pay disparities are even greater—African American women earn 71 percent and Latinas earn 58 percent of what their male colleagues earn.

The gender wage gap is not just a women's issue, it is an issue that affects the strength of our families and our communities. This is why I am a cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act to strengthen the Equal Pay Act of 1963 to provide for equal rights in pay regardless of a person's sex, race or national origin. This legislation should be a priority for the 110th Congress.

It is long past time to close the gender pay gap. I urge my colleagues to join me in working to eliminate these unjust pay disparities.

RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR DIPLOMATIC DIALOG WITH CARIBBEAN NATIONS

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an opinion editorial published in the CaribNews newspaper the week ending March 20, 2007 titled "Caribbean-U.S. Summit In Washington: A Photo-OP or Meeting Of Substance, Only Time Will Tell." As well as, an article written by Tony Best, appearing the same week in the CaribNews paper, entitled "Caribbean Leaders and President Bush to Meet; In Washington, In June, U.S.-Caribbean Relations, Economic Development, Trade To Be High On Agenda." Both articles comment on the Administration's sudden interest with the Caribbean nations in the Western Hemisphere.

The White House has invited the leaders of the Caribbean nations (CARICOM) to a dialog regarding strengthening relationships between these countries and the United States. I am glad to see the Administration is reaching out to our Western Hemisphere neighbors, since these relations have been neglected far too long, making the U.S. an increasingly isolated nation among Western Hemisphere states and placing CARICOM-U.S. relations at an all time low.

It is imperative that the United States find a way to pragmatically assess and be responsive to the social and economic challenges facing our neighbors in accordance with Washington's long-term political interests, since the region is often described as our "Third border." CARICOM leaders have accepted Washington's invitation and are interested in addressing trade issues, as well as competitiveness and investment in mutually beneficial ways.

In addition, CARICOM leaders during their visit to Washington will be reaching out to the members of Congress most interested in and with the jurisdiction over the issues affecting the Caribbean and the members of the Diaspora here in the United States.

As we continue to strengthen our national economy and improve our standing in the international community it is important that we devote serious attention to strengthening U.S. relations throughout the Western Hemisphere.

CARIBBEAN LEADERS AND PRESIDENT BUSH TO MEET IN WASHINGTON IN JUNE, U.S.-CARIBBEAN RELATIONS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE TO BE HIGH ON AGENDA

(By Tony Best)

Caricom leaders are going to the White House in June to meet with U.S. President George W. Bush.

And the invitation list are to Presidents and Prime Ministers, ranging from St. Vincent's Prime Minister, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, who is the current Chairman of Caricom, Haiti's Rene Preval, Guyana's Bharrat Jagdeo, Jamaica's first female leader, Portia Simpson Miller, and St. Lucia's Sir John Compton, to Trinidad and Tobago's Patrick Manning, Antigua's Baldwin Spencer, his counterpart in St. Kitts-Nevis, Dr. Denzil Douglas, and Grenada's Dr. Keith Mitchell, not to mention Barbados' Owen Arthur, the Bahamas' Perry Christie, Dominica's Roosevelt Skerrit and Suriname's Ronald Venetiaan.

In short, quite unlike the invitations, which the White House sent out to a handful of Caribbean leaders a few years ago to sit down with President Bush over breakfast, a glaring attempt to snub those countries, which opposed the invasion of Iraq, all of Caricom's heads of government are to be invited this time around.

Although President Bush has met with a few of the region's leaders from time to time, the upcoming summit will be the first of its kind in Washington with Caribbean Prime Ministers and Presidents since Bush took office.

It is being arranged at a time when the Bush Administration is under fire throughout the Western Hemisphere for virtually ignoring Caribbean and Latin American economic and social issues.

It is scheduled for June 21 when many of the Caribbean leaders are due in Washington for the U.S. Conference on the Caribbean. While the White House agenda has not been finalized, diplomatic sources say trade, investment, economic and social development and U.S. role in the Western Hemisphere may be discussed.

It is not yet known how many of the Prime Ministers and the Presidents would attend the conference or accept the invitation to the White House session.

"It's too early to indicate what will be discussed at the conference but it is our expectation that most if not all of the Prime Ministers and Presidents as well as the foreign Ministers will be traveling to Washington for the conference," Elsworth John, St. Vincent's Ambassador in Washington and coordinator of the conference told the New York Carib News.

But Michael King, Barbados' Ambassador to the U.S., pinpointed a few issues, which might be discussed during the Caribbean conference.

"We are hoping that all 15 heads of government will attend from our region," said King. "The conference is going to look primarily at three or four issues, mainly the strengthening of the relationship between the U.S. and Caricom with a view to addressing the priority areas for the Caribbean's future growth and development. We will be looking at such issues as trade, competitiveness and investment in mutually beneficial and reinforcing ways. Obviously, we would be looking at deepening and broadening the dialogue between the Governments and peoples of Caricom and the United States."

John said that when Caricom leaders met recently in his country under the Chairmanship of Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, St. Vincent's Prime Minister, they approved the broad outlines of the conference and approved the summit with President Bush.

"The conference was discussed at the recent Caricom Heads of Government Conference held in St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

The Heads of Government meeting signed off on the conference and supported the program as it was structured," he explained. "The meeting with President Bush is scheduled for the Thursday, the final day of the conference which begins on June 19th and ends on the 21st. It will be at the White House."

Dr. Gonsalves, current Chairman of Caricom, has already urged the region's leaders to "clear their calendars for that particular time" so they could participate in the conference and the meeting with President Bush, said John.

The conference will be part of the celebrations marking Caribbean Heritage Month that is being observed across the United States in June to underscore the contributions of Caribbean immigrants and the countries themselves to America's prosperity.

After much prodding, President Bush last year signed into law a Bill that designates

June as Caribbean Heritage Month and West Indians in such places as New York, Washington, Miami, California, Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore are planning a variety of cultural, economic, religious and other social events to draw attention to the region.

"Caribbean Heritage month is important to all of us," said King.

John put it differently.

"This conference comes at a time when the United States is beginning to show a lot more interest in its relationship with this Hemisphere," he said.

"This conference came out of a meeting between the U.S. Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, and the foreign ministers from the Caribbean where it was decided that it would be a good idea for the leaders from the Caribbean to come to Washington to meet with the President in a summit and the Foreign Ministers to meet with the Secretary of State.

But the plans go beyond Caribbean and U.S. Government officials sitting down and talking about political and economic issues.

"We felt that it was an opportune time for us to have a people to people connection, seeing that there are so many people from the Caribbean in the Diaspora," John added. "In addition, we want to establish closer links between the businesses, the private sector from the Caribbean and the United States. What we are doing is to proceed on all of those fronts in our preparations for the conference."

Hence, sessions on the Diaspora, the private sector and culture and a meeting with key Congressional leaders, including Congressman Charles Rangel, Chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee.

"We are in the process of having consultations with the State Department on exactly what the content of the discussions will be," said John.

The World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Organization of American States are also being consulted on the plans for the different sessions.

Mr. Bush is winding up a week long tour of Latin American nations where he was met with demonstrations and criticisms from thousands of citizens who oppose the Bush foreign policy, especially the war in Iraq.

CARIBBEAN-U.S. SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON—A PHOTO-OP OR MEETING OF SUBSTANCE, ONLY TIME WILL TELL

After six years of lost opportunities, the Bush Administration has decided to open the White House doors to all the leaders of the Caribbean whose countries form Caricom. What a pity it has taken so long for the United States Chief Executive, George Bush, to do what was right and to come to terms with the realities of the Western Hemisphere in general and the Caribbean in particular.

The invitation to the Presidents and Prime Ministers to a sit down meeting shouldn't simply be a photo opportunity but a chance to open up a meaningful dialogue with countries that have been principled allies of the United States for centuries.

The summit which is scheduled for June 21, the end of a three day U.S. Conference on the Caribbean can be made into a meaningful exercise with sessions, not simply at the White House but on Capitol Hill, with the Congressional Black Caucus and other lawmakers who have the Caribbean's interest at heart. Meetings with the Diaspora and the private sector, all with the goal of advancing the economic and social development of the countries in the region can be useful to the process of bringing people together and helping the region to attain its goals. Although trade, investment, immigration and broad areas of economic and social development are expected to dominate the agenda, it's our

hope that the region would resist the temptation to put 30 items on an agenda for a series of short meetings. That has prevented previous meetings from turning out to be productive exchanges of views.

How much better it could have been if the high-handedness of Republicans in and out of the White House and the Congress hadn't been a fact of life for the Caribbean. Only if the Bush Administration and the Republicans in the House and Senate had recognized the importance of treating small countries with dignity and respect, instead of trying to make them feel as if they were Lilliputians that should be ignored.

Presidents Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton thought it was useful to travel to the Caribbean to exchange ideas and discuss programs and policies with America's neighbor, but not this Chief Executive.

Indeed, Bush behaved in such an unfortunate manner by seeking to snub those countries and their leaders who disagreed with the invasion of Iraq and the resulting debacle that he dissipated so much goodwill. For at a time when Bush should have been making friends with his natural allies he sought to punish many of them by declining to meet with critics of his policy. That pettiness is unbecoming of the most powerful nation in the world.

Tony Blair, the British Prime Minister and Mr. Bush's principal ally in Iraq had the good sense to schedule a meeting in London, invited all of them for a session in London, so they could talk about the way forward, economically and socially for the Caribbean.

That's why Caribbean-U.K. relations are so warm.

The conference and the summit offer Bush and the Caricom heads a chance to address questions of common concern such as Washington's future role in efforts to strengthen economic and trade links within Caricom itself and in the Hemisphere as a whole.

For their part, the Prime Ministers and Presidents can send a strong message to Congress that the unresolved immigration mess, including the deportation of all criminal aliens, regardless of their individual histories, was damaging the Caribbean's social system.

It's important that the dialogue in Washington reaches out to the Diaspora across the United States. With the exception of Trinidad and Tobago, remittances and other forms of assistance from the Caribbean immigrants abroad are a vital source of foreign exchange, so much so that in Jamaica's case they top the list while in others they amount to number two or three. Caricom has paid lip service to the Diaspora, with officials making periodic forays into North America and England but avoiding the creation of any permanent method of communication and follow-up to initiatives that are talked about but allowed to fall by the wayside.

If that problem isn't addressed the conference during Heritage Month would end up as yet another exercise in futility.

In the past, town meetings have been held, presentations by leaders were scheduled and made but afterwards, nothing happened.

For instance, cricket World Cup has started and the promised collaboration with U.S.-based Caribbean firms and other interests have not materialized.

A somewhat similar thing is happening with the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. Caricom as an institution should use this conference to put meaningful and permanent links and establish effectively relationships with the communities that pump more than \$2 billion in foreign exchange annually into the economies back home.

CALLING ON VIETNAM TO IMMEDIATELY AND UNCONDITIONALLY RELEASE POLITICAL PRISONERS AND PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 243, which calls on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to immediately and unconditionally release Father Nguyen Van Ly, Nguyen Van Dai, Le Thi Cong Nhan, and other political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Mr. Speaker, as a co-sponsor of this resolution, I am extremely concerned and saddened by the resumption of repressive tactics of the Vietnamese Government. It was only six months ago that the State Department's Office of International Religious Freedom removed Vietnam from its "Countries of Particular Concern" list, a list mandated by the International Religious Freedom Act which we passed in 1998. However, despite their removal from this list, the Vietnamese government instead chose to resort to arbitrary arrests and detentions of religious community leaders and human rights activists.

Father Nguyen Van Ly, a founder of the Committee for Human Rights in Vietnam, was arrested for what authorities called, "conducting propaganda activities to harm the security of state." Father Nguyen Van Ly has spent nearly thirteen years in prison for the fight for religious freedom and democracy in Vietnam. Just last month, two prominent Vietnamese human rights attorneys, Mr. Nguyen Van Dai and Ms. Le Thi Cong Nhan, were arrested for "spreading anti-government propaganda."

Mr. Speaker, the United States prides itself on the promotion of democracy, good governance, protection of human rights and religious freedom, and the advancement of the rule of law. We cannot look the other way when a "Most Favored Nation" is committing the grossest of human rights violations against its citizens. Congress cannot ignore the blatant disregard Vietnam is displaying towards its own people while it continues to detain and silence Vietnamese lawyers, democracy activists, and human rights advocates. As Vietnam aspires to integrate itself with the global economy, I believe it must also understand that the United States and the rest of the world is watching their actions and we condemn their atrocious digression and disregard for the most basic human rights.

NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH 2007

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I speak in support of H. Res. 29, in support of the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month 2007.

Mentoring is an extremely important responsibility. It provides our youth with positive role

models and aspirations for children that might find themselves directionless and without motivation. The benefits of mentoring are unquestioned; it helps with a young adult's individual development, and also prepares the next generation for their role in our community. Needless to say, I am grateful for all the mentors I have had throughout the years.

Some of the other wide ranging benefits of mentoring include improving relationships with parents, peers and teachers; staying motivated and focused on their education; facing daily challenges; exploring new careers and expanding their knowledge.

Research shows that youth who are actively engaged in high quality mentoring relationships show improvement in the areas of self-esteem, academics, and social skills. Those with a strong mentor are more likely to graduate from high school and are less likely than their peers to engage in harmful behavior such as drug or alcohol abuse.

In Eastern Washington, many organizations have undertaken this important task of mentoring. Inland NW Mentoring, based in Spokane, Washington, is a partnership of more than 20 organizations dedicated to a variety of mentoring services. This partnership is a collaboration of non-profits seeking "to connect people who wish to volunteer their knowledge and experience as mentors." I applaud the dedication of this consortium to ensure that tomorrow's leaders are equipped and envisioned through mentoring relationships.

Another institution that over the years provided structure and a goal-oriented education are the Boy Scouts of America. Specifically, in Eastern Washington there are more than 6,700 boy scouts in the Spokane area whose outstanding programs build character, leadership, citizenship and important life skills. The Scout leaders, volunteers and sponsors are making a positive impact on the leaders of tomorrow.

We must also applaud everyone who participates in Children of Promise, an organization that offers positive role models for children who have incarcerated parents. Other important organizations such as Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Inland Northwest ensure that kids in Eastern Washington have the friend they desperately need.

I would also like to salute the Gonzaga University Campus Kids program, which collaborates with four community elementary schools to provide student mentors to 4th, 5th and 6th graders. It is good for our young adults to be a part of encouraging and supporting those young people coming after them.

H. Res. 29 presents an opportunity to encourage more adults to invest in positive relationships with young people. It is an opportunity for us to say thank you to the many organizations who are already investing their time and energy to positively influence the next generation. Serving this next generation through mentoring will not only provide individual returns, but as a community and a society, we will see the lasting impacts of these important mentoring relationships.

IN RECOGNITION OF BRUCE VANOVEN

**HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gibson County Deputy Sheriff Bruce Vanoven for his dedication and valor in the line of duty.

On a July night in 2006, Deputy Vanoven responded to a distress call from Cameron White. White had been shot, stabbed, and left for dead in a Pike County cornfield.

Without knowledge of White's location or whether the suspect had left the scene, Vanoven searched the field for White and three other victims, who had already died from their injuries. As a result of his willingness to jeopardize his own safety to help others, Deputy Vanoven arrived in time to administer medical assistance to White until paramedics could reach the scene. His heroism saved Cameron White's life.

For his actions, Deputy Vanoven has received accolades from America's Most Wanted and the American Red Cross and was named Deputy of the Year by the Gibson County Sheriff's Department. As someone who has spent his career in law enforcement, it is a true honor to have this opportunity to recognize Bruce Vanoven. I commend his actions and thank him for his service to the people of southwest Indiana.

RECOGNIZING LAWRENCE GREEN

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lawrence Green for being named "Driver of the Year" by the Environment Industry Associations. Mr. Green is an employee of IESI waste service and an exemplary citizen of Forest Hill, Texas.

The award is presented annually by the Environment Industry Associations. EIA recognizes the best drivers from the U.S. and Canada involved in solid waste hauling and recycling services who have demonstrated their commitment to their profession, shown a commitment to service and quality, and operated their vehicles in a safe and responsible manner.

Mr. Green is an employee of IESI, an environmental services company founded in 1995. The company has since expanded across the southern and northeastern United States. During his 24 years of service, he has collected an estimated 87,000 tons of waste in the Colleyville and Haltom City area. Over the course of 1.5 million miles, he has not had a single accident or complaint.

Lawrence Green's services have extended beyond his job description. On one occasion, he followed and apprehended some children whom he had seen breaking into a car. Another time, he carried home a girl who had fallen off of her bicycle. Although he has proven himself worthy of being promoted, he has turned down the offer on different occasions.

I would like to commend Mr. Green for his outstanding service and congratulate him for

being named "Driver of the Year." It is terrific to see someone who both enjoys his job and excels at it. I wish him success in the future, and I am very proud to represent him in the 26th District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING VICKI SILKWOOD  
PRESIDENT OF THE MISSOURI  
FEDERATION OF BUSINESS AND  
PROFESSIONAL WOMEN

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Vicki Silkwood, a constituent of the 6th district of Missouri who recently was installed as President of the Missouri Federation of Business and Professional Women for 2007–2008. As President, she will preside over the Missouri Board of Directors and will serve on the Chillicothe Business and Professional Women's/USA Board of Directors.

The Missouri Federation of Business and Professional Women has approximately 1,000 members statewide and works on achieving equality for women in the workplace through education, advocacy and research.

Ms. Silkwood has been very active over the years with the Chillicothe Business and Professional Women's organization. She has held numerous leadership positions, beginning with two consecutive terms as President of the Chillicothe local and as District Director for the Missouri Federation of Business and Professional Women's Board. Ms. Silkwood has also served as Membership Retention Chair for the State Board, State Treasurer, and State First and Second Vice President and President Elect.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating Vicki Silkwood for her accomplishment of being selected as President of the Missouri Federation of Business and Professional Women for 2007–2008. It is an honor to represent Ms. Silkwood in the United States Congress.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTH  
FREEDOM PROTECTION ACT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Health Freedom Protection Act. This bill restores the First Amendment rights of consumers to receive truthful information regarding the benefits of foods and dietary supplements by codifying the First Amendment standards used by Federal courts to strike down the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) efforts to censor truthful health claims. The Health Freedom Protection Act also stops the Federal Trade Commissions (FTC) from censoring truthful health care claims.

The American people have made it clear they do not want the Federal government to interfere with their access to dietary supplements, yet the FDA and the FTC continue to engage in heavy-handed attempts to restrict

such access. The FDA continues to frustrate consumers' efforts to learn how they can improve their health even after Congress, responding to a record number of constituents' comments, passed the Dietary Supplement and Health and Education Act of 1994 (DSHEA). FDA bureaucrats are so determined to frustrate consumers' access to truthful information that they are even evading their duty to comply with four Federal court decisions vindicating consumers' First Amendment rights to discover the health benefits of foods and dietary supplements.

FDA bureaucrats have even refused to abide by the DSHEA section allowing the public to have access to scientific articles and publications regarding the role of nutrients in protecting against diseases by claiming that every article concerning this topic is evidence of intent to sell a drug.

Because of the FDA's censorship of truthful health claims, millions of Americans may suffer with diseases and other health care problems they may have avoided by using dietary supplements. For example, the FDA prohibited consumers from learning how folic acid reduces the risk of neural tube defects for 4 years after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended every woman of childbearing age take folic acid supplements to reduce neural tube defects. This FDA action contributed to an estimated 10,000 cases of preventable neural tube defects!

The FDA also continues to prohibit consumers from learning about the scientific evidence that glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate are effective in the treatment of osteoarthritis; that omega-3 fatty acids may reduce the risk of sudden death heart attack; and that calcium may reduce the risk of bone fractures.

The Health Freedom Protection Act will force the FDA to at last comply with the commands of Congress, the First Amendment, and the American people by codifying the First Amendment standards adopted by the Federal courts. Specifically, the Health Freedom Protection Act stops the FDA from censoring truthful claims about the curative, mitigative, or preventative effects of dietary supplements, and adopts the Federal court's suggested use of disclaimers as an alternative to censorship. The Health Freedom Protection Act also stops the FDA from prohibiting the distribution of scientific articles and publications regarding the role of nutrients in protecting against disease.

This legislation also addresses the FTC's violations of the First Amendment. Under traditional First Amendment jurisprudence, the Federal government bears the burden of proving an advertising statement false before censoring that statement. However, the FTC has reversed the standard in the case of dietary supplements by requiring supplement manufacturers to satisfy an unobtainable standard of proof that their statement is true. The FTC's standards are blocking innovation in the marketplace.

The Health Freedom Protection Act requires the government bear the burden of proving that speech could be censored. This is how it should be in a free, dynamic society. The bill also requires that the FTC warn parties that their advertising is false and give them a chance to correct their mistakes.

Madam Speaker, if we are serious about putting people in charge of their health care, then shouldn't we stop federal bureaucrats from preventing Americans from learning

about simple ways to improve their health. I therefore call on my colleagues to stand up for good health care and the First Amendment by cosponsoring the Health Freedom Protection Act.

GENETIC INFORMATION  
NONDISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2007*

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act.

I am a cosponsor of this important legislation, which bans discrimination in the workplace and in health insurance on the basis of predictive genetic information. It prohibits insurance companies from denying coverage or increasing premiums because of genetic factors. Also, under this bill, employers cannot consider genetic factors in the process of hiring, firing, or promoting workers. H.R. 493 is much like a Minnesota law, which I voted for when I was a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives.

Genetic discrimination has the potential to affect every person in the United States. Despite advances in modern medical technology, it is impossible to predict with certainty whether a given individual will actually develop a disease. Patients recognize that few laws exist to prevent health insurers or employers from using their predictive genetic information to deny them coverage or jobs. As a result, they may avoid taking an important genetic test or participating in genetic research.

Federal employees are already protected from genetic discrimination by an executive order signed by President Clinton and retained by President Bush. It is time to extend this protection to the rest of our country.

H.R. 493 will give Americans the security they need to take care of their health needs without worrying that they will face discrimination. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

COMMEMORATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABOLITION OF THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I wish to express my full support for commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade as called for by H. Res. 272, which was introduced by Representative BARBARA LEE.

The Transatlantic Slave Trade is a very important part of world history that should never be forgotten. Millions of men, women, and children were forcibly removed from their homeland, packed into ships under inhumane conditions, and then after being lucky enough to survive the treacherous high seas, sold like

pieces of disposable property to slave owners. Further, to add insult to injury, they were treated horribly by their masters throughout their lives. For those that survived the voyage, their strength is still unbelievable and nothing short of a miracle. For these and other reasons, Americans and people all over the world should be reminded of their immeasurable suffering and how the abolishment of the Transatlantic Slave Trade impacted the end of that atrocity.

The abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade was a pivotal step to the full abolishment of slavery in Great Britain and the United States. Since this action was monumental, it needs to be commemorated. A commemoration offers an opportunity to educate youth and remind others of the importance of ending the Transatlantic Slave Trade. There simply is not enough attention given to educating people on the history of slavery. Although it represents a dark part of history, it needs to be highlighted and explained.

It has been said and it is true, that America is a melting pot. Since our great country is so diverse and will continue to grow, every opportunity to commemorate and share history should be seized. I encourage my colleagues to support this important resolution.

#### ADDRESS GUN CONTROL NOW

#### HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, two weeks ago, our Nation suffered an unspeakable tragedy when a deranged gunman indiscriminately killed 32 students and teachers at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. Our prayers and thoughts are with the surviving victims, families, and the entire Virginia Tech community who are determined to not allow one crazed individual to ruin the school's Hokie spirit and strength. This horrific, senseless act was committed because a mentally ill individual could easily buy two handguns and as many rounds of ammunition clips as he desired. I cannot stress to you how important it is that we reauthorize the federal assault weapons ban, close the existing loopholes, and strengthen the background checks requirements.

I want to submit for the record a Letter to the Editor that was posted in the Washington Post on April 21, 2007. This letter was written by Jay Wind of Arlington, VA, and Robert Weiner of Accokeek, VA. I agree with their contention that now is the time for Congress to address gun control and get these semiautomatic weapons off the streets.

[From the Washington Post, April 21, 2007]

#### REFLECTIONS AFTER THE KILLINGS

(By Robert S. Weiner and Jay Jacob Wind)

As a national political public affairs consultant and the father of a Virginia Tech student who knows five of the dead and was best friends with one of the first two shot, we are outraged and dismayed that congressional leaders of both parties are running for cover from handgun control after the worst gun violence in American history. Instead of using this sad opportunity to stop such shootings by barring handguns, as other civilized countries do, Congress and the White House are pandering to the politics of the

National Rifle Association because of potential votes in swing states.

Why are our political leaders not speaking out against handguns instead of asserting that this is not the right time for such a debate? In unarmed Britain, fewer than 100 die a year from handguns. America is still the Wild West, with an average of 30,000 gunned down annually.

In September, the youngest Wind daughter will enter Virginia Tech. She thought she would be safe, near her older sister. It's time for Virginia's leaders—and the nation's—to act to prevent future massacres.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF UNITED STATES ARMY CORPORAL MICHAEL MATTHEW ROJAS

#### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life of CPL Michael Matthew Rojas, who lost his life defending the freedom of our Nation in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

A native of Fresno, California, Michael was born on March 1, 1986. As early as his freshman year in high school, he made joining the military a goal in his life. He played 4 years of football at Clovis East and helped his team win the Central Section Division 1 Championship, a highlight of his high school career. Shortly upon his high school graduation in 2004, Michael attained his goal by enlisting in the Army. When asked why he decided to join knowing that our Nation was at war, he would reply, "Because it's the men and women before me that made it possible to live in freedom."

With that passion and drive Michael completed basic training at Fort Sill, OK as a cannon crewmember. In November of 2004, he reported to Fort Lewis where he was assigned to the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division. Unfortunately, Michael's tour in Iraq ended when an improvised device detonated near his military vehicle during combat operations on April 18, 2007.

Michael is survived by his mother, Debbie Apodaca; his father, David Esquivil; his wife, Katrina; five sisters, Michelle, Melissa, Marissa, Samantha, Maria; and one brother, David. Also surviving are his grandparents, William Rojas, Victoria Valenzuela, and Art and Gloria Esquivil; and his nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and numerous friends.

It is my belief that Michael's life symbolizes the ultimate sacrifice one can make for his country. His valor, strength, courage and pride in our nation will forever live in the thoughts and hearts of his family and Americans across the nation. CPL Michael Matthew Rojas' dedication to the principles of freedom and democracy will serve as an example to all of us, for generations to come.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO CREATE THE OFFICE OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER FOR THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

#### HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, today I am once again introducing legislation that I sponsored in the previous two Congresses to provide for a Chief Financial Officer for the Virgin Islands. Having witnessed the example and record of what having such a position has meant to the financial management and fiscal health of the District of Columbia, I continue to believe that my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, would also benefit from having a CFO.

When I first introduced the idea of a CFO for the Virgin Islands in 2005, I did so in response to the uncertainties and distrust of government voiced by my constituents and as a measure to prevent the territory, which was experiencing a serious financial crisis, from falling into the abyss of fiscal insolvency.

I believed then, as I do now, that having someone in our government free of political pressures and with the statutory responsibility and authority to certify revenue projections and prevent deficit spending could assist our government to establish sound financial practices which would put the Islands on the path to improved financial management going forward. Because of our long history of poor financial management and practices, an office such as this would also help to immediately restore the confidence of the Federal Government and others in our ability to be fiscally transparent and accountable.

There are those, Madam Speaker, who will ask why I am doing this at this time, particularly because the islands just inaugurated a new governor whose background is in financial management and who has been a good friend and political ally.

They will suggest that my introduction of this bill signals a lack of confidence in the governor to effectively steer the Virgin Islands' fiscal ship into calm financial waters. Nothing could be further from the truth. I have every confidence in Governor John de Jongh and his administration and believe that they will do a first rate job of managing the territory's finances. He has already begun to do so, but I also believe that every good manager, no matter how talented or committed he or she might be, can always do a better job if they had better tools with which to work.

When I first introduced this bill the territory's long-term debt totaled \$1 billion. Recently the Governor in an address before the League of Women Voters stated that "the government's financial structure is 'a house of cards' that has left the territory about \$3 billion in debt."

As has frequently been the case, the legislature questioned the governor's numbers. A CFO would take the uncertainty out of the equation and allow a legislature and governor to work better together because they would both get their numbers from the same independent source. Further, the departments of government, semi-autonomous agencies and labor unions would be better able to plan, and the people of the Virgin Islands in general would have reliable information on how the

millions of federal dollars coming to the Virgin Islands are being spent.

This bill was first introduced under the administration of Governor Turnbull and it is revised with respect to the financial management system because, to his credit, its implementation began under his tenure.

In recognition of and deference to the upcoming constitution to be drafted, approved by the Congress and then ratified by the people of the Virgin Islands, the prior bill is further amended in that the term of the Chief Financial Officer will expire at the implementation of the Constitution or in five years, whichever comes sooner.

Proposing this bill as a tool to help my islands better manage its finances has not been an easy journey for me. It has however, become very clear that the people of the Virgin Islands are behind me in this effort because they have long recognized the need for more accountability, transparency, and efficiency in the management of federal and local funds. The implementation of an independent CFO, while not the only way to achieve this, is the only viable proposal that has come forward over the last 10 years or more of increasing deficits and narrowly averted fiscal crises, crises which have only been delayed through repeated borrowing.

Such borrowing and debt creation is what has led to the \$3 billion debt reported by Governor Dejongh last month—a practice he has already stated he will not continue. This office is offered as a way to assist our governor in his stated goal of paying our obligations and bringing the territory's finances into balance, to give apolitical, reliable and trusted information on the financial state of our government, as well as a way to bridge any divisions between the administration and the legislature in the interests of expediting a positive and sustainable agenda for the people of the Virgin Islands.

I thank the Speaker for her support of this important legislation in prior Congresses and ask for her continued support to bring this legislation to passage once again.

#### RECOGNIZING PHILIP WILLIAM ISLEY FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Philip William Isley, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Philip has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Philip has been involved with scouting, he has earned 28 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as Troop Guide, Chaplain's Aide, Assistant Patrol Leader, and Patrol Leader. Philip is a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow and a Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. His tribal name is Silent Crocodile of the North Shore.

Philip planned and directed the landscaping and remodeling of the entrance to the Mount

Memorial Cemetery at William Jewell College. Philip has also added a bench and statue to the landscaping in the cemetery.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Philip William Isley for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOUNT ZION TEMPLE IN ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

#### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of Mount Zion Temple in St. Paul, Minnesota. Mt. Zion's long service as a faith home to generations of Minnesotans deserves special recognition. This year's celebration marks the temple's deep dedication to community, life-long learning, worship and social justice.

Mount Zion Temple has a proud history in Minnesota. Eight Jewish pioneers came together to found Mount Zion Hebrew Congregation in 1856, two years before Minnesota became a state. Now 150 years later, every Reform congregation in the Twin Cities can trace their beginnings to the original congregation of eight families.

Mount Zion has been a pillar not only for the faith community but also for generations of Minnesotans who have been touched by the temple's strong commitment to community involvement. In 1900, members of Mt. Zion founded Neighborhood House, a community center providing advocacy, support, and community building programs to St. Paul. Today, more than 100 years later, the new "Paul and Sheila Wellstone Community Center at Neighborhood House" serves a growing community in St. Paul. Our entire community shares pride in this legacy.

Madam Speaker, recognizing the countless contributions of Mt. Zion Temple to the people of Minnesota during the past 150 years, it is my honor to submit this statement for the official CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

#### HONORING KATE P. MORAN RECIPIENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH'S ACADEMY RECOGNITION FOR EDUCATION

#### HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kate P. Moran of Alexandria, Virginia, upon her receiving the Commonwealth's Academy Recognition for Educators (CARE) Award.

The CARE Award honors outstanding educators from across the country who are working to enhance the lives of their students. CARE Award recipients are recognized for their unrelenting work to enhance the lives of the students they serve. Kate Moran, a Special Education Coordinator, was honored for

her efforts to construct innovative ways to train special needs youth in Virginia.

Raised in Alexandria, Virginia Ms. Moran is a graduate of TC Williams High School. She went on to receive her Bachelor's of Arts in Theater from Catholic University of America, and received a Master's of Teaching in Special Education from University of Virginia. Currently a resident of Alexandria, Virginia Ms. Moran has taught in the Virginia school system for 6 years.

As a special education coordinator for TC Williams High School, Minnie Howard School, and the Secondary Training and Education Program, she has dedicated her career to educating students with learning disabilities, mental challenges, and health impairments. In her own words, she tries to "meet the needs of students and families by making special education accessible to all types of learners."

Ms. Moran's dedication to her special-needs students is unprecedented. Over the past 6 years she has made a lasting impression on her students giving them the skills and support to lead a fuller, more rewarding life.

I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Kate Moran and congratulating her on this distinguished achievement.

#### SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

#### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 334, which will support the goals and ideals of National Community College Month. This resolution was passed on May 1, 2007 with bipartisan support.

Not only is a college education one of the best investments a person can make, it is the best way to ensure our children and grandchildren have a promising future regardless of socioeconomic status. The typical college graduate earns 80 percent more than a high school graduate, and this can add up to about one million dollars over one's career. Additionally, more educated people tend to have access to better health care, and often enjoy a better quality of life.

For these reasons, I am always looking for ways to improve access to a quality education for our area, and I have found that community colleges are one of the best ways to achieve this. For many years now, I have seen the benefits of these schools, and their collaboration with community partners in our area is critical. Whether it's through training programs or working with local businesses, community colleges focus on areas to make sure that their students have the components they need to be successful.

I am proud that the Congress has decided to honor our country's community colleges, their students, governing boards, faculty, and staff, not only for their contributions to education and workforce development, but for their vital role in ensuring a brighter, stronger future for our country.

CALLING ON VIETNAM TO IMMEDIATELY AND UNCONDITIONALLY RELEASE POLITICAL PRISONERS AND PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

SPEECH OF

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support for H. Res. 243. The imprisonment of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience by the Republic of Vietnam is unconscionable. I join my colleagues in urging the communist regime in Hanoi to cease with these repressive actions.

Father Nguyen Van Ly and human rights attorneys Nguyen Van Dai and Le Thi Cong Nhan were arrested earlier this year for allegedly disseminating propaganda against their government. Their actions were peaceful and nonviolent, and are protected by the Vietnamese Constitution. In the 12th round of human rights talks between our government and the government of the Republic of Vietnam last week, the assistant to the Vietnamese foreign minister attempted to highlight their achievements in this arena, citing the protection and execution of basic rights and freedoms of their people.

Madam Speaker, these words are not enough. We need action. The government of Vietnam needs to show us their commitment to providing basic human rights to their citizenry by releasing these Vietnamese patriots. Their alleged crimes amount to nothing more than advocating freedom of religion, speech, movement and association; these actions should be celebrated, rather than punished by their government.

I support this resolution and call upon the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to immediately and unconditionally release these political and religious prisoners. Further, I call upon their government to embrace differing opinions, and ensure their government's vitality through the strength of its principles, rather than the strength of its police force.

A TRIBUTE TO JACK VALENTI

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, this week, the Nation lost one of its most colorful and wise counselors: Jack Valenti, who was the personification of the motion picture industry in Washington. I can't think of another industry that has had a representative so well known and so highly regarded, or one so accessible in spite of his considerable fame. Much more than "just" a lobbyist, Jack had an intense interest in public policy and a wisdom about him that made him an extremely valuable counselor to Presidents, to Congressmen and Senators and to his peers and colleagues. He was a great man with a charm and wit that won him genuine affection as well as near universal admiration.

The following op-ed article from the Washington Post of Saturday, April 28 was written

by Matt Gerson, who worked with and was mentored by Jack. It describes perfectly the loss felt by those of us who were also fortunate enough to learn from this extraordinary man.

WHAT JACK VALENTI TAUGHT US ALL

Jack Valenti lived a unique life between two of society's fascinations—politics and Hollywood. For Republicans and Democrats, for senators and young aides, for celebrities and the legions behind the cameras, interactions with him were graduate seminars in history, politics, human nature and common sense. This extraordinary communicator punctuated every conversation with a witticism linked to his beloved Texas, a quote from an obscure historical figure or a rule passed on to him by his mentor, Lyndon Johnson. In the weeks leading up to his death Thursday, all over town a simple "How's Jack?" almost always led to, "You know, I try to live by something I once heard him say."

I first noticed his reach when a lunch companion said, "I try to return every phone call the same day I receive it, and I try to treat an appointment secretary like a Cabinet secretary." That was followed by a senator who revealed: "Jack was the first one to contact me after my son died. I will never forget his concern and support. How can I reach his family?"

For those Jack mentored during the 38 years he dedicated to America's film industry, it became clear that character was defined by loyalty. In both Washington and Hollywood, people often desert "friends" at the first whiff of public disfavor. Not Jack—time and again he insisted that you never abandon a friend who was going through a rough time, and he always stood with a beleaguered colleague or public official who was receiving unwanted publicity.

He would tell his team to respect every elected official ("because you never even ran for dog catcher, and they were sent here by the people"). He admonished us that your adversary today might be your ally tomorrow. "In a political struggle, never get personal—else the dagger digs too deep."

Jack rejected the partisanship that gripped Washington and would warn that "nothing lasts—today's minority backbencher will be tomorrow's subcommittee chairman." On the day the Motion Picture Association of America headquarters was named the Jack Valenti Building, Senator TED STEVENS observed, "Jack works across the aisle because he doesn't see an aisle. It is the root of his success and what others ought to emulate."

Each of the six studio chiefs who spoke at the dedication ceremony emphasized that Jack's word was his bond—if he made a promise, he never wavered. His rock-solid commitment gave him unusual credibility with leaders on both coasts and around the world.

Jack was a gifted public speaker who put incredible effort into making it all look effortless. He would rework his text behind closed doors, reciting it until the cadence was just right. Jack was ebullient when a president complimented him once on the "extemporaneous" remarks he had made at the Gridiron Club. "The president couldn't believe I didn't have a prepared text. I neglected to mention that I didn't need notes because I spent several days getting ready," he said.

It was especially fun to watch Washington's most accomplished professionals try to decipher one of his homilies. They eventually got the point and often adopted the line as their own. When a project was in trouble, it was time to "hunker down like a mule in a hailstorm." [Modified from the original Texas vernacular for a family newspaper.]

When prospects got even worse, "The ox was in the ditch." But every problem could be addressed if you remembered "the three most important words in the English language: Wait a minute."

When someone from the MPAA left to take a new job, Jack would say, "I like to think I teach my people everything they know. But I know I didn't teach them everything I know." That line always got a laugh. I worked with Jack for 6 years and was friends with him for nearly two decades. In the past few years, frankly, I thought I had gleaned every lesson he had to offer. But then I picked up the galleys of his soon-to-be-published memoir, a book that tracks his "Greatest Generation" fable. This grandson of Sicilian immigrants, decorated combat pilot, Harvard MBA ("thanks to the greatest piece of social legislation ever devised by man—the G.I. Bill"), presidential adviser and confidant of America's business leaders has left a treatise with even more rules to live by.

One paragraph is a must-read for the BlackBerry-addicted. Jack quoted Emerson's observation that "for every gain, there is a loss. For every loss, there is a gain." While lamenting the number of nights he spent away from his family, he reminded us that attending one more reception meant missing a meal around the dinner table, and one extra night on a business trip would mean one less chance to help with homework or watch a soccer game.

I have recounted that quote many times over the past few weeks. And while this loss is devastating for many in Washington and Los Angeles, the life lessons that are his legacy are our gain.

SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY  
SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor San Jose State University on the occasion of its founding 150 years ago. For a century and a half, San Jose State has provided affordable, quality education. From its humble beginnings as a normal school to train teachers, San Jose State has grown into a comprehensive university, offering bachelor's and master's degrees in 134 programs.

The University reflects the ethnic diversity of California and particularly, that of Santa Clara County with no single ethnic group comprising a majority of the student population. As a graduate of San Jose State, I am particularly proud to note that the University ranks tenth among the Nation's top public universities in the number of bachelor's degrees awarded to minority students across all disciplines. Additionally, San Jose State University has conferred bachelor's degrees in business management and the health professions to more Asian American and Pacific Islanders than any other college or university in the Nation.

I would like to thank my colleagues Representative ZOE LOFGREN, Representative ANNA ESHOO, Representative SAM FARR and Representative JERRY MCNERNEY for joining

me today in recognizing San Jose State University's sesquicentennial.

# INTRODUCING THE PILOTS EQUITABLE TREATMENT ACT

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Pilots Equitable Treatment Act, legislation that would prevent deep, unfair cuts in pilots' retirement benefits.

Over thirty years ago, Congress established the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation to insure the pension benefits of American workers. When employers terminate their workers' traditional pension plans, the PBGC takes the plans over and makes monthly payments to plan participants who are retired.

When the PBGC takes over a company's pension plan, the plan participants do not always receive the same benefit they would have received if their plan had not terminated. For example, workers who retire before age 65—which the law considers “normal” retirement age—receive reduced benefits to reflect the longer period that these retirees likely will receive benefits.

This is bad news for pilots. Under Federal Aviation Administration rules, airline pilots are required to retire at age 60. As a result, pilots whose pension plan has been terminated—like the pilots at United Airlines and US Airways—wind up taking drastic cuts to their pension benefits because the PBGC treats age 60 as an early retirement age and cuts pilots guaranteed benefits as a result.

The federal government is responsible for trapping pilots in this double-bind. The PBGC and the FAA are both federal agencies, but because their rules don't align, pilots are forced to pay the price. Pilots earn every dime of their pension benefits and they don't choose to retire at age 60. The time to fix this problem is today.

The Pilots Equitable Treatment Act would put airline pilots on equal ground with other workers by requiring the PBGC to treat age 60 as the normal retirement age for pilots—not as an early retirement age. In other words, pilots would receive the maximum PBGC benefit for which they would be eligible if they worked until age 65. If they worked until the age of 57, it would be as if they worked until age 62 and the pilot would receive the appropriate PBGC benefit.

In a 2005 e-hearing Tom Gardiner, of Bainbridge Island, WA, facing the loss of his retirement nest egg at United Airlines, explained the conundrum facing pilots—

“My name is Tom Gardiner and I am a Captain for United Airlines with a total of 27 years of service. . . . If the PBGC takes over the pilots' defined benefit plan, I will lose at least 2/3 of my promised pension. . . .

[One factor] contributing to this huge hit is the adjustment for “early retirement” mandated by PBGC rules. Of course, I have no choice in the matter; the FAA regulations require me to retire at age 60. The PBGC considers that to be “early” and takes away 35 percent of what I would otherwise receive from them. It is a classic “Catch 22.22. . . .”

Captain Gardiner is not alone. The Pilots Equitable Treatment Act would be a first step to restoring some measure of fairness to these hardworking Americans who have seen promised and hard-earned benefits disappear overnight.

# TRIBUTE ON THE RETIREMENT OF JOHN CONSTANCE

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to John Constance, who last week retired from the National Archives after 35 years of Federal Service.

For 14 years, John served as the National Archives liaison to Capitol Hill, supervising congressional relations, public affairs, communications, and the agency's web program.

A native of Baltimore, Maryland, John joined the Archives after graduating from the College of William and Mary in 1972.

He served in a number of managerial positions with the agency, including Director of Policy and Program Analysis, and the Chief of Product Acquisition and Marketing for the National Audiovisual Center.

In addition, Mr. Constance served in extended details to both the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Education during his career, managing public affairs projects for both agencies.

I am personally grateful to John for all the expertise and assistance he provided to me in the early 1990s during a time of extraordinary transformation for the National Archives, particularly when it established a second facility in College Park, Maryland to accommodate the growing volume of historical materials and improve services to researchers.

This state-of-the-art facility, which has become known as “Archives II,” is a treasure to anyone who believes that a nation cannot progress unless it first understands its past. The historically significant records it maintains literally document the history of our great nation, and will serve as primary sources for countless scholars of history, culture, politics, and science for generations to come.

All of us who embark on careers in public service hope that when the day comes to move on to other pursuits, we will be remembered for the good works we have rendered to the American people. John will be remembered for, of all things, his part in advancing our nation's sacred duty to remember its always rich, often glorious, and sometimes controversial history.

# IN MEMORY OF CECIL JENNINGS

**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend, a dedicated coach, and a committed educator, Mr. Cecil Jennings, for his loyal service and devotion to the youth of America.

As a public school teacher and coach, Cecil possessed an unwavering dedication to the

community, the children of the public school system, and to any young person needing his help or his guidance.

Cecil was born in 1934 and lived in the Great Bridge area of Chesapeake, Virginia. A graduate of Great Bridge High School and East Tennessee State University, he began his teaching career in 1957 at Deep Creek High School and taught there for two years. He then went on to teach at his alma mater, Great Bridge Junior High School, and worked as a physical education teacher and also coached football, track, wrestling and softball. Cecil also participated as a baseball and basketball coach in recreational leagues and umpired Little League baseball games. He retired from Great Bridge High after 36 years of service to the community. However, even after his retirement he continued to be the personification of school pride and school spirit for the “Wildcats” of Great Bridge.

In life, Cecil always carried himself with a positive attitude towards life and was well-known as an honorable individual with a big heart. He was well-respected by parents and people in the community. As a coach, Cecil had a philosophy that no one was cut from the team; he couldn't stand to cut his players because he saw in every child who had the willingness to try, an opportunity for success down the road. When he coached junior high football, usually 65 young men dressed for each game. “Coach Jennings” gave each child he coached the opportunity to be a winner, and carried that legacy throughout his career. Cecil mentored many students who, through his encouragement and devotion, found success in their education and in their lives. The stories of lives he touched and helped mold seem endless.

Towards the end of his life, Cecil battled cancer, diabetes and severe arthritis. Even as he aged and his health deteriorated, he continued to nurture, encourage and support his family, friends, and the local sports teams. In one of his last visits with a close friend, he reflected upon the happiness and joy he felt for his family and his community. Even through his pain, his selfless compassion continued to shine.

Cecil Jennings was a mentor, an honorable public servant and a dear friend to all who crossed in his path. I offer my sincerest condolences to his wife, Beth, their three children, Greg, Cecil, and Cissy, and five grandchildren, Brittany, Hailee, Alex, Christopher, and Emma. Cecil may no longer be with us, but the impact he made upon the community he loved is imprinted with the continuing legacy of thousands who made “Cecil's Teams” and whose lives were better for having done so.

# RECOGNIZING RYAN JAMES CHESHER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ryan James Cheshier, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 270, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ryan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Ryan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ryan James Cheshier for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING STATE SENATOR  
RUSS POTTS

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring the attention of the House to the retirement of Virginia State Senator Russ Potts. In February, Russ announced that he will not seek reelection in November and it is my pleasure today to recognize his hard work and dedication to the people of the 27th District of Virginia.

Born and raised in Winchester, Russ had a paper route and delivered milk as a young boy to help contribute to his family's income. Self-made, Russ majored in journalism at the University of Maryland before returning to Winchester to take a job as the sports editor of The Winchester Star. A homegrown Republican, Russ eventually went on to a career in sports promotion before running for State Senate 1991. As chairman of the Senate Education and Health Committee and member of the Commerce and Labor, Finance, Privileges and Elections and Rules committees, Russ has made a lasting contribution during the four terms he has served the Commonwealth of Virginia. Russ has dedicated a large portion of his career to public service and will be sorely missed.

Russ is a man of high moral character, a true Virginia gentleman, family man, and loyal friend. I would be remiss today if I didn't also recognize Russ's unwavering dedication to his wife Emily, three daughters, and grandchildren. I ask that my colleagues in the House rise today and join with me in recognizing the outstanding career of Russ Potts.

IN CELEBRATION OF JOHN G.  
BEBBLING'S 60TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 60th birthday of Mr. John G. Bebbling, a wonderful friend and loving community member.

John's life story is quite impressive. John was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. He came to Arizona, graduated from my alma mater, Arizona State University, with a degree in Business Administration in 1971 and served in the United States Coast Guard.

In 1974, with only \$1,000 in hand, John opened Tempe Paint and Decorator Center. Thirty years later, that investment turned into

a \$100 million a year operation, employing over 200 within his community. John's ability and business expertise has led to many achievements, which include earning the Tempe Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year award, runner-up for the Arizona Small Business of the Year Award and the prestigious Arizona Business Leadership Award. And just last month, John's company TDC Interiors celebrated their 33rd anniversary.

John has always believed in giving back to his community. He has been actively involved in the Arizona Boys Ranch, Centers for Habilitation, Boys and Girls Clubs of the East Valley, Make-a-Wish Foundation, Tempe Diablos, Sun Angel Foundation, Sister Cities International and the Arizona State University Foundation. He has also served on the Board of Directors for the YMCA and the Salvation Army.

Aside from John's business and civic commitments, John is a loving and devoted father to this three children Jamie, Allison and John and a cherished friend to many.

Further, John has been a dear friend to the Mitchell family. Having been by each other's side in good times and not so good times, I have counted John as a close personal friend for almost 40 years.

John's successes should be viewed as those of a true community steward. It is for these reasons that I join John's family and friends in wishing him a blessed 60th birthday and continued health and happiness in the years to come.

POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE  
DOESN'T CUT IT

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, yesterday Democrat leaders staged a ceremony to send their defeatist supplemental bill to President Bush. As Democrats joined together around their proposal of retreat, our troops in Baghdad waited yet another day for critical funding.

The sad irony is that for all of their pomp and circumstance, Democrat leaders should face the threat of al-Qaeda, in thatawahiri has declared Iraq the central front in the Global War on Terrorism. We should be working together in the Global War on Terrorism, not promote plans of defeat. We need to be on the offense protecting American families.

Fortunately, President Bush vetoed the Democrat plan for defeat last night. I look forward to voting to uphold this veto and am hopeful we can now get down to the business of providing for our troops. We must face the terrorists overseas or we will face them again in the streets of America.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th.

INTRODUCTION OF H. RES. 351, EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT FEDERAL AUTHORITIES SHOULD STRENGTHEN AND VIGOROUSLY ENFORCE ALL EXISTING IMMIGRATION LAWS

**HON. JOHN SULLIVAN**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, yesterday I introduced H. Res. 351, which offers a straightforward, common sense approach toward deterring illegal immigration, opposing the flawed policy of amnesty, and restoring the rule of law in our country by calling on Federal authorities to strengthen and vigorously enforce all existing immigration laws. The simple truth is that until we enforce the Federal immigration laws already on the books, it is irresponsible for Congress to consider any legislation that would grant amnesty to the estimated 12–20 million illegal aliens currently residing in the United States.

The policy of granting amnesty is a proven failure in our country. The Immigration Reform Control Act of 1986, which granted amnesty to 3 million illegal aliens, did nothing to stem the tide of illegal aliens crossing our borders, but rather contributed to the explosion of illegal immigration our nation faces today. Additionally, granting amnesty to those who have illegally crossed our borders is fiscally irresponsible and would place heavy financial burdens on American taxpayers and Federal social programs alike. According to the Heritage Foundation, current amnesty proposals being debated in Congress would result in the largest expansion of the welfare state in over 35 years and could eventually cost American taxpayers an additional \$30 billion per year.

The failure of the Federal government to enforce existing immigration laws has put the integrity of our immigration system and the sovereignty of our great nation at risk. Years of lax enforcement has led to a massive influx of aliens illegally crossing our borders without proper identification, thus creating a strain on the economy, law enforcement at all levels, and public safety in communities across the country. Many cities across the country are actually encouraging illegal immigration by providing sanctuary to those who have broken United States law by illegally crossing our borders. Police departments in these sanctuary cities are actually forbidden from reporting immigration violations to Federal authorities, creating grave national security loopholes.

I introduced H. Res. 351 because I believe that the enforcement and strengthening of existing immigration laws, the elimination of sanctuary policies and increased cooperation between Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials are all necessary steps in reestablishing the rule of law in our country, and providing a significant deterrent to illegal immigration.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution which is in both the economic and national security interests of the United States.

CONGRATULATING CHARTER  
SCHOOLS FOR THEIR ONGOING  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION

SPEECH OF

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pembroke Pines Charter School as we consider H. Res. 344, a bill congratulating Charter Schools.

Forty states and the District of Columbia have charter schools, totaling nearly 4,000 schools nationally. Enrollment is approximately one million students or about 2 percent of the Nation's elementary, middle and high school enrollment. Over one-half of all charter schools are in Florida, Arizona, California, Ohio and Texas.

The City of Pembroke Pines Charter School is the only city-sponsored charter school in Florida. Madam Speaker, the Pembroke Pines Charter School, located in my district, is comprised of seven schools ranging from K-12 grades with a total enrollment of nearly 5,400 students. The school is so successful that there is a waiting list of 9,000 students desiring to attend the Pembroke Pines Charter Schools.

The Pembroke Pines Charter High School has recently been rated as one of the top two high schools in Broward County, with 93 percent of all Pembroke Pines charter school high school graduates attending college.

The Pembroke Pines Charter Schools were among those nominated to the Center for Education Reform to compete for the honor of being named one of the top charter schools in the Nation. Out of 4,000 charter schools nationwide, 52 charter schools received this acknowledgement of distinction.

Madam Speaker, two of these top charter schools are part of the Pembroke Pines Charter School System. Ms. Devarn Flowers, Principal of the West Campuses, and other city and school officials will attend a special recognition program at The Center for Education Reform in Washington, DC on May 15, 2007 to receive the "top schools" recognition for The Pembroke Pines Charter Schools.

I commend Ms. Devarn Flowers, the teachers, the administrators and especially the students of Pembroke Pines Charter Schools for their hard work. On the occasion of National Charter Schools week, I am enthusiastically supporting this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 344.

TRIBUTE TO COMMAND SERGEANT  
MAJOR DOUGLAS M. GREENWAY

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Command Sergeant Major Douglas M. Greenway of Ft. Benning, GA. The Command Sergeant Major for the U.S. Army's Infantry School, he will soon retire from the Army after a long career of distinguished service.

CSM Greenway entered the Army in 1979, completed Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning, GA. He graduated from Sergeants Major Academy Class 50 and completed all levels of the Non-Commissioned Officer Educational System, NCOES, including the Sergeants Major Academy and Command Sergeants Major Course.

CSM Greenway also has honorably and dutifully served his country in several posts, both stateside and abroad, including Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Just Cause in Panama.

Concurrent with his service, CSM Greenway has been honored with numerous awards and medals, most notably the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Ranger Tab, the Master Parachutists Badge, and Drill Sergeants Badge.

In addition to his many years of service, honors, medals, and commendations from countless colleagues, last month CSM Greenway made history: he and his son, Brandon, were the first father and son team to compete in the Best Ranger Competition, a grueling competition held every year at Fort Benning that demands exceptional navigational skill, great physical strength and a keen intellect.

Madam Speaker, at this time in our nation's history, we are in need of leaders, of individuals who step forward and exemplify the concept of "service above self." We need more people like Command Sergeant Major Douglas M. Greenway.

It is an honor to recognize him here today. I humbly thank him for his service and for his contribution, not just to Fort Benning, but to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING TYLER JOSEPH  
VANVACTER FOR ACHIEVING  
THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tyler Joseph VanVacter, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 270, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tyler has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Tyler has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tyler Joseph VanVacter for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF WEST-  
MINSTER PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Westminster Presbyterian Church of Sacramento on the 150th anniversary of their congregation's founding. Since Sacramento's earliest days Westminster Presbyterian has been a constant force of spirituality and tolerance in our community. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the church and its congregation on this historic occasion.

Founded on April 27, 1856, the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Sacramento has been a fixture in our community for a century and half. Their first church service was held in a hall at 6th and J Streets, marking the formation of the first Presbyterian congregation in Sacramento.

Westminster Presbyterian held services at a number of downtown locations before they built and moved into its current historic home on N Street, across from California's State capitol building in 1927.

Through their first 150 years, Westminster Presbyterian Church and its members have sought to be a diverse, welcoming, regional congregation that is able to assist individuals in transforming their spiritual insights into positive actions in our community.

For the past few years Westminster Presbyterian has extended a hand of prayer and compassion to many in Sacramento's diverse communities. Under the leadership of Rev. David Thompson, the church has been active on a wide range of issues, from civil rights to global warming. With its location across from the State capitol, the congregation's stance on such issues has played a welcome role in many of California's policy debates.

On a personal note, my family and I will always be grateful to Rev. Thompson and the church's staff for opening their hearts and doors to us after my husband, Bob Matsui, passed away. The church was a gracious host to his funeral and the hundreds of attendees who mourned with us.

Madam Speaker, as the members of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Sacramento gather to celebrate the 150th anniversary of their church's founding, I am honored to pay tribute to their historic church and enduring faith. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing the congregation and church's leadership continued success in serving all of us in Sacramento.

SALUTING BETTY LOU REED

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I would like to salute Betty Lou Reed from Deerfield, Illinois. Betty has been a part of the community for nearly fifty years, and has served at nearly every level of government. Later this month, she will move to Denver so she can be near her daughter and grandchildren.

Betty Lou started in politics in the 1960's as a volunteer and staffer. She retold stories of serving bourbon and branchwater to Senator Everett Dirksen during the good old days. From 1968 to 1972 Betty Lou was an elected Supervisor serving on the Lake County Board. During that time, she also served as a Field Representative for the Illinois Department of Local Government Affairs. In 1971, Betty Lou was appointed by President Nixon to the Small Business Administration's Midwest Regional Advisory Council.

She was elected by the citizens of her community to the Illinois General Assembly from 1975 to 1982, becoming the Chairman of the Illinois Water Resources Commission in 1980.

After her retirement from the legislature, she became the District Director for our former colleague and my predecessor, John Edward Porter, from 1982 to 1989. After leaving Congressman Porter's Congressional office, she continued serving as his General Chairman from 1988 to 1994.

Recognizing her talent and dedication, Betty Lou received the prestigious Hope B. McCormick Illinois Lincoln Series Excellence in Public Service Award in 1996 for her exceptional work in mentoring women in politics.

Along with John Porter, Betty is a mentor and, as she would say, "a pro." I hope you will join me in wishing Betty Lou many years of happiness as she leaves our community.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARINE LANCE CORPORAL DANIEL CHAIRES

#### HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. BOYD of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the valor and honor the legacy of a brave young man who gave his life to his country while serving in Iraq. Marine LCpl Daniel Chaires was killed on October 25, 2006, at the age of 20 in a gun battle with Iraqi insurgents. Daniel has left a wonderful legacy of devotion to his family, the community, his church, the Marines, and our great country.

As a descendent of one of Leon County's pioneer families, Daniel has deep roots in North Florida. His hometown of Chaires, Florida, and Chaires Elementary School are named after his family. On Friday, Chaires Elementary School will celebrate the life and military service of Marine LCpl Daniel Chaires. The school will be dedicating a patriotic mural and a monument in honor of Daniel, who was a young man of great courage and character.

As an active and energetic member of the community, Daniel touched the lives of so many. I know that his family and friends will always remember Daniel as a source of strength, inspiration, and leadership.

As a Vietnam veteran, a father, and a fellow American, I would like to pay tribute to Marine LCpl Daniel Chaires. We honor him, we thank him, and we will never forget the ultimate sacrifice he made for his country and for the cause of freedom. I know that his family is immensely proud of him and his service, and we are all in his debt.

#### WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY

#### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, Workers' Memorial Day, which was observed on April 28th, is a solemn day of remembrance for the thousands of workers who have died—over 5,700 or 16 workers a day in 2005—and a day in which we pledge to do better to protect the health and safety of America's workers.

Since the passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) in 1970, conditions in the workplace have improved and thousands of lives have been saved, but with this Administration's dismal record on workers' safety, many still die and over 4 million are injured or fall ill every year.

OSHA knows how to help workers when it wants to. For example, in 1978 when OSHA's cotton dust standard was adopted, there were 40,000 workers—or 12 percent of all textile workers—12 percent of all textile workers suffered from this deadly disease.

By 2000, and because of the OSHA standard, brown lung was virtually eliminated. OSHA's 1978 standard on lead dramatically reduced lead poisoning, and the 1989 excavation standard designed to protect workers from trench collapses has reduced deaths by more than 20 percent while construction activity has increased by 20 percent. But this administration has one of the worst records of any Administration in the issuance of safety and health standards.

My subcommittee, the Workforce Protections Subcommittee, held a hearing on OSHA's record last week where the administrator of OSHA, Edwin Foulke and Eric Peoples, a worker who has lost 80 percent of his lung capacity due to his exposure to a dangerous and unregulated chemical called Diacetyl [die-aci-teal] sat side by side.

Mr. Foulke said that his heart went out to Mr. Peoples and his family. But then he told us that there wasn't enough proof to promulgate an emergency standard to protect workers from Diacetyl.

What more evidence does he need? Diacetyl is a butter flavoring chemical that causes a deadly lung disease, known popularly as "Popcorn Lung." Workers exposed to Diacetyl work in microwave popcorn facilities and other factories where flavorings are used. Mr. Peoples worked in one of these facilities and became ill within months of starting his job. Mr. Peoples—like many of those with popcorn lung—is so sick that he is awaiting a double lung transplant. Scientists have called the effect of Diacetyl on workers' lungs "astonishingly grotesque" and likened it to "inhaling acid." Three workers have died so far.

There has been almost no response from OSHA despite the fact that OSHA scientists have urged the Agency leadership to take broad action on Diacetyl. And sadly, failure to protect workers from Diacetyl is just the tip of the iceberg. The Agency has failed to issue even those standards that are among its priorities, and in 6 years only one significant safety and health standard issued in February 2006, and that was under court order. If OSHA were to inspect every workplace in the country just once, it would take the Agency 133 years.

A recent congressional hearing revealed that OSHA had not done a single

comprehensive inspection of any American refinery in the 10 years preceding the devastating 2005 explosion at BP's Texas City refinery that killed 15 workers. But instead of hiring more inspectors OSHA only wants to increase staffing for voluntary activities with its industry partners.

Meanwhile, millions of public employees and other workers still don't even have OSHA coverage, and OSHA penalties are so low that they are just seen by business as the cost of doing business.

We need to hold this Administration's feet to the fire and that is what I intend to do. And we need to act here in Congress to make health and safety our priority and to truly honor America's workers who have died on the job.

So I hope you will join me by co-sponsoring H.R. 2049, the Protecting America's Workers Act. Senator KENNEDY has introduced a companion in the Senate.

This law will bring much needed change by expanding coverage to millions of public employees not covered by OSHA and to other private sector employees who are not currently covered. It will increase penalties in the case of willful violations resulting in death or serious injury and will also protect employees who have the courage to speak out about unsafe working conditions.

And finally, it mandates that the Department of Labor investigates all cases of death or serious injuries, makes the process transparent, and gives workers and their families the right to meet with investigators.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABOLITION OF THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

SPEECH OF

#### HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud to be a cosponsor of H. Res. 272, a resolution commemorating the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. The transatlantic slave trade was a crime against the humanity of Africans, mostly from Western, Central, and Eastern Africa, who were kidnapped and sent to the United States and the colonies that became the United States which occurred between the 15th and late 19th centuries. Millions of Africans were literally kidnapped and shipped like chattels to the Americas. In the process many were physically abused and raped. Many perished as a result of torture, malnutrition, disease and resistance in transit. Those who survived were forced into slavery. Slavery in the United States during and after British colonial rule included the sale and acquisition of Africans as chattel property in interstate and intrastate commerce.

Humans of African origin here in the United States were robbed of their homes, family, language, culture, religion, and above all their freedom. The transatlantic slave trade is characterized as the largest forced migration in world history. What made the institution of slavery in the United States unique was that this particular form of slavery was in fact race based with 'black' or 'Negro' becoming synonymous with the word 'slave'. Slaves were

prevented by law from learning to read and marriage between two slaves was not recognized by the state. It is argued that the effects of slavery have affected African-Americans and American society to this very day.

In 1807, Britain became the first European nation to ban the slave trade. France, Holland, and the United States soon thereafter passed legislation banning the trade. However, since Spain and Portugal did not follow this example, African slaves continued to be sent to countries in South America until near the end of the 19th century. Even with the end of the slave trade slavery would still be legal across a large part of the United States until the end of the Civil War.

I am compelled to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade because we as a country cannot ever forget this legalized horror and crime against humanity that was allowed to exist in our Nation. A horror that made our American union a less perfect one than it was initially set out to be. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support and commemorate the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

**CONGRATULATING SHOWTIME  
STORM DANCE TEAM FOR WIN-  
NING THE UNITED STATES ALL  
STAR FEDERATION'S WORLD  
COMPETITION**

**HON. STEVAN PEARCE**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Showtime Studios Dance Team, Showtime Storm from Alamogordo, New Mexico on their success at the United States All Star Federation's World Competition (USASF). This is a competition where young people travel to Disney World to compete against the best dancers from around the world. These 18 students from the Showtime Studio's senior hip hop team showed their diligent work ethic and amazing talent by advancing to the world competition through a series of regional and national dance championships. The hip hop dance team set a high standard for others to follow since 2007 was the first year USASF held the Senior Hip Hop Gold Championship title. The team has overcome adversity on their journey to the championship and I commend them for their dedication and success.

I am proud to recognize the Showtime Storm dance squad for their accomplishments. I specifically want to congratulate, Kelsey Osterholm, Perla Alarcon, Michael Barber, Adam Berg, Samantha Burch, Marco Cardiel, Erica Clausen, Samantha Collins, Bryan Harris, Vanessa Hernandez, Raynee Hopkins, Shawna Jett, Kristina Joyner, Macey Marquardt, Ashley Pacheco, Sarah Santos, Whitney Weise, Lexi Wright, assistant coach Vickie Marquardt, and head coach Lorrie Black.

It is my honor as a Member of Congress to have the chance to congratulate this outstanding group of young people on an achievement their hard work has earned them. Congratulations to each of you, your family, your community, and your congressman are all proud of your achievements.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE OPENING  
OF THE EAST ALABAMA WATER,  
FIRE, AND SEWER PROTECTION  
DISTRICT COMPLEX**

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate today the dedicated men and women of the East Alabama Water, Fire, and Sewer Protection District Complex for the Open House and Ribbon Cutting of their new facility on May 3, 2007.

The new resource protection complex in Chambers County will help provide greater fire protection and water supplies to the city of Valley and the rural areas of Chambers County. With the growing population in the area, the opening of the facility could not have come at a better time. The new facility has over 24,000 square feet and two buildings, which will help provide space for current operations and storage and add room to grow. Overseeing the operation and management of the new facility will be Mr. Tony Segrest, Ms. Beverly Story, Chief Byron Pigg, Mr. Neal Marberry, Mr. Pat Meacham, and Mr. David Martin.

I salute the men and women of the East Alabama Water, Fire, and Sewer Protection District Complex for their service to the community, and congratulate them at the dedication of this important new facility.

**CONGRATULATING NUMBERSUSA  
ON ACHIEVING THEIR 10-YEAR  
ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincere congratulations to NumbersUSA on achieving its 10-year anniversary. For the past decade, NumbersUSA has worked to advocate for common-sense immigration reforms.

Formed in 1997 by Roy Beck, NumbersUSA has grown dramatically from 300 a decade ago to over 300,000 activist members today. They have provided a voice for the hundreds of thousands of Americans that expect their government to enforce our immigration laws and pursue policies that enhance the security, prosperity, and overall well-being of our Nation.

NumbersUSA honors our immigrant heritage and our commitment to the rule of law through its work toward a more sustainable national immigration policy.

So once again, Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Beck and the staff and members of NumbersUSA on the achievement of this important milestone, and wish them the best of luck in the future.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, due to personal health reasons, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 270: "yes" rollcall No. 271: "yes", rollcall No. 272 "yes".

**A TRIBUTE TO THE SAN ANTONIO  
FOOD BANK**

**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the May 7, 2007 opening of the San Antonio Food Bank's new facility. The Food Bank is vital to those in the greater San Antonio area who need help providing food for themselves and their families. I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to this charitable organization on the opening of its new and improved facility.

The Food Bank's new space will allow them to expand the critical services they provide to San Antonio and its neighboring communities. The Food Bank's food storage capacity will increase five fold—from two million pounds of food to storage space for ten million pounds. The facility will house a community center, enabling the center to enlarge its community outreach and improve access to its services. Its large cold storage capacity will allow the Food Bank to further diversify its food selection, maximizing the nutritional value of the products it provides. Additionally, a state-of-the-art kitchen, capable of preparing 50,000 meals is located in the new facility, greatly enhancing the organization's ability to offer Texans emergency food assistance during natural disasters or other emergencies.

This crucial organization began serving southwest Texas in 1980, and its operations continue to grow to meet the needs of Texans facing food-shortage emergencies. As one of the largest operations of its kind in the United States, the Food Bank works with its 380 partner organizations, which include senior citizen centers, church pantry programs, soup kitchens, emergency food shelters, orphanages, after school programs, day care centers and rehabilitation facilities spread across 16 southwest Texas counties, to make over 21 million meals available annually. The Food bank also delivers 40 pound boxes of food to over 40,000 Texas families each month.

The Food Bank is consistently recognized for its good work, including its effective use of funds. In fact, for two years in a row, the Food Bank has received a four-star rating for financial management from Charity Navigator, the country's largest independent evaluator of charities. I am very proud of the important work that the Food Bank conducts, as well as the effective manner in which such work is done.

The message of caring this organization sends through its gift of food to those in need

must be heard and acted upon by us all. The San Antonio Food Bank, and organizations like it, provide success stories that inspire us to action. While its new expanded facility is evidence of a growing need for emergency food services, it also demonstrates a will on the part of our community to address these needs.

On the occasion of the opening of the San Antonio Food Bank's new facility, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the organization's hard working staff on their service to the community and to congratulate them on their continuing efforts to ensure that all Texans are fed.

IN HONOR OF JANE ITOGAWA

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to a wonderful woman who has served the Federal government for over forty years. This week, Jane Itogawa will be retiring from the Office of the Federal Defender, Eastern District of California after a distinguished career. As her colleagues, friends and family gather to celebrate her retirement, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding Sacramento resident and public servant.

In 1971 Sacramento's Office of the Federal Defender was established and E. Richard Walker was named the first Federal Defender. Within a year, a then Jane Hashiaka was selected to serve as the Secretary to the Federal Defender. Prior to that position Jane had worked for the Treasury Department, Department of Justice and the Department of Agriculture.

However, it was with the Office of the Federal Defender, where those unable to retain legal counsel are provided representation in front of the court, that Jane found a home that would last for 35 years. Since starting as the office's secretary, she has been promoted to Administrative Assistant and then the position of Administrative Officer. At each position Jane's colleagues remarked that her dedication to the office was unmatched and that she consistently went above and beyond the call of duty.

On June 1st 1976, Jane married Eugene Itogawa. Last year the couple celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary. They have one daughter, Michele Itogawa. In her spare time Jane gives back to the community by staying active with the Buddhist Church of Sacramento, where she assists with the church's annual Japanese Food and Cultural Bazaar.

Madam Speaker, as Jane Itogawa enters retirement, I am truly honored to pay tribute to a friend and dedicated public servant. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Jane, her husband Gene and daughter Michelle continued success and happiness in all of their future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING A.W. ZENGELER  
CLEANERS ON THEIR SESQUICENTENNIAL

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 150th Anniversary of Zengeler Cleaners, a well established family-owned business in my district. The Zengeler family exemplify the highest work ethic and the very spirit of achieving the American Dream.

John Zengeler established "The New York Steam Dye Works," a clothing cleaning business, at 208 South Clark St. in Chicago in 1857. He then moved the business to S. Prairie St. in 1866, which was destroyed in the Great Chicago Fire in 1871. He rebuilt on S. Cottage Grove Ave. in Chicago and John's eldest son Arthur W. ("A.W.") Zengeler joined his father in the business in 1896. They opened a new location as A.W. Zengeler Cleaners in 1906.

In 1930, A.W.'s sons, Ralph, Art and Al, became active in the business, with Ralph becoming the third generation of leadership in 1948. Following that tradition, Ralph's son Robert became the fourth generation to lead the family business; and three of Robert's six children—Robert, Jr., Michael, and Thomas—became the fifth generation of the Zengeler family to join the business. Six years ago, Thomas Zengeler became President and the fifth generation leader of the family-owned company.

Over the years, Zengeler Cleaners has grown to seven stores in Lake and Cook Counties, with an eighth store planned to open later in 2007. The business is now home to 145 employees, 27 of whom have been with the company for 20 years or more. It is a strong contributor to our local economy in the 10th Congressional District of Illinois.

This year we pause to celebrate the company's 150th Anniversary and a proud history in which it overcame the Great Chicago Fire, the Civil War, two World Wars and the Great Depression, emerging as one of the premier fabric care specialists in the United States.

I commend the Zengeler family for successfully passing down their proud work ethic and commitment to quality for 150 years and through five generations.

TRIBUTE TO STEVEN HALL

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, this week, the Association of California of Water Agencies, representative of private and public water experts, marks the coming retirement of its Executive Director, Steven Hall. He is a person who knows that water is the life-blood of California, and has been a key figure in planning for our state's future.

Steven Hall has held that position since 1992 and has helped formulate and guide the development and allocation of the water resources upon which the entire California population and agricultural production are depend-

ent. Representing the urban and agricultural users of California, the association is the largest of its kind and has an enormous impact on citizens and consumers throughout the nation.

Prior to assuming his responsibilities at A.C.W.A., Steven Hall was Executive Director of the California Farm Water Coalition, which he founded. The Coalition was a first-of-its-kind coalition of agricultural water users and water agencies which developed strategic information and policy related to agricultural water use in the state. He was instrumental in enactment of major water transfer legislation and related issues.

For 4 years prior to his work at the Coalition, he founded and directed the Land Preservation Association which developed and implemented policy on irrigation and drainage in California. He helped develop policy and funding solutions for impacted agricultural land as well as serving on policy and technical work groups formulating recommendations to state and federal policy makers.

Perhaps his greatest achievement was lead negotiator in the three-way efforts between agricultural, urban and environmental water users that led to creation of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. CALFED is a unique collaboration among 25 state and federal agencies with a mission of improving water supplies in California and the health of the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, a body of water on which two-thirds of California's citizens depend for water. As a result of the early work of the program, the California Bay-Delta Authority was formed to oversee the program's implementation, and Congress adopted the plan in 2004. Steve Hall was a guiding force behind these accomplishments, and he leaves much of its work as his legacy.

Steve Hall is a friend and role model to all of us who know him. His passion for family and friends is well-known. Steve's ability to combine humor with work has made public policy efforts productive and enjoyable.

At the end of the day, we are all judged by how we handle success and adversity. No one has demonstrated any better than our friend Steve Hall on how we deal with life's challenges. Let the record clearly state that Steve Hall is a true gentleman and a class act.

I join the other members of the California Congressional delegation and all of Steve's friends in wishing him well, and congratulating him for the depth and scope of his accomplishments that have affected all California.

HONORING THE CHILDREN'S  
HEALTH INITIATIVE OF NAPA  
COUNTY

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Children's Health Initiative of Napa County for the excellent work it has done to expand health insurance coverage to all of Napa County's children. By trying to ensure that every child in Napa County has some form of health insurance, the Children's Health Initiative is working to improve the quality of life for all children and families in Napa County.

The Children's Health Initiative was founded in 2005 with the goal of providing insurance

coverage for every child in Napa County, either directly or by working with families to obtain coverage through other programs they might qualify for. Often families qualify for health insurance but are intimidated by the paperwork or relatively minor costs associated with many insurance programs. A twin approach of helping families make those enrollments where qualified while providing a comprehensive health insurance program to those who do not have been the foundation of this program's success.

Since the start of programmatic work in December 2005, Children's Health Initiative has gained health insurance for 2,100 children in Napa County. Approximately 30 percent of these were through the initiative's own Healthy Kids insurance, while the remainder have successfully enrolled in the partnership programs MediCal, Healthy Families, and Kaiser Permanente's Child Health Plan. The program has done very well, reaching into communities that have traditionally lacked information about health care resources. Around 95 percent of the children served by the initiative's own Healthy Kids insurance program are Spanish speaking by birth, and many live in households with incomes not far above the federal poverty line.

It is extraordinarily important that children in any community be given access to a comprehensive health care. Not only is it good for the individual child's health and development, but it also has numerous positive effects throughout the community. By ensuring regular access to preventative care and examinations, as well as immunizations, children are healthier and pose less risk of transmitting diseases to others, and require fewer expensive visits to the emergency room. Parents benefit as well, as they take fewer sick days and so are more stable in their jobs.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank the Children's Health Initiative of Napa County for the remarkable strides this program has taken in just 2 years. Only through the hard work and generous contributions of countless members of our community has this program gotten such a strong start, and I know that we will see much more progress in the years to come.

#### HONORING THE PAUL WELLSTONE LEGACY

#### HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, it is an honor for me to speak in support of the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007. I want to thank both Congressman KENNEDY and Congressman RAMSTAD for their dedication to ending insurance discrimination and ensuring all Americans have access to mental health and addiction services. I also want to thank Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader HOYER, and Majority Whip CLYBURN for their leadership in championing this bill and mental health access issues.

As a Minnesotan, I'm struck by the emotion of this day because the late Senator Wellstone's tireless efforts to ensure mental health parity might finally be realized. Paul Wellstone knew it was wrong for health insurers to place

discriminatory restrictions on treatments and I'm honored to be a part of this effort to finally guarantee that the millions of Americans who need mental health and addiction services can obtain the treatment they deserve.

The urgent need for the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007 is surely best expressed by those who have seen a loved one in need denied coverage. I think immediately of Kitty Westin, whose daughter Anna suffered from anorexia, a deadly disease that affects approximately 8 million Americans and ultimately claimed Anna's life. During her daughter's battle with anorexia, Kitty took Anna to the hospital. Anna was refused care by their insurance company because it did not consider access to mental health treatment important enough to cover.

Kitty knows this is completely unacceptable and has been fighting selflessly to make sure no other family experiences the same frustration and pain. I commend her for carrying on Anna's legacy so impressively through her advocacy efforts and community work. For Kitty and all of the others who have encountered insurance discrimination, I carry Paul Wellstone's message that mental health care is an imperative part of all health care. My hope is that this bill in his name will finally pass, guaranteeing that all Americans have access to mental health and addiction services.

#### TRIBUTE TO RYAN JOHN BURGESS, UNITED STATES MARINE, LANCE CORPORAL

#### HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Madam Speaker, the events of the last few years have reminded us that "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." The United States stands as a beacon of hope and liberty for the world because of the eternal vigilance of the men and women who have served and are serving in the United States military.

Marine Lance Corporal Ryan John Burgess was one such soldier. A patriot through and through, Ryan did not hesitate to answer the call to duty when his country went to war. Never an easy decision, and one that causes great concern amongst parents, Ryan enlisted and excelled as a marine. His leadership was often recognized by his superiors in the form of being granted additional responsibilities.

Today, I want to recognize on the floor of the United States House of Representatives the life and service of Ryan John Burgess—a life given in full so that our freedom may be preserved. Ryan's bravery serves as a stark reminder of the responsibility we have as stewards of this great country—the land of the free and the home of the brave.

So, as we salute heroes like Ryan John Burgess, we remember them with undying gratitude. And we resolve, though we cannot repay the debt we owe them, to live our lives in such a way as to be worthy of their sacrifice.

May God keep Ryan; may God watch and comfort his family; and, may God continue to grant this Nation with the courage to defend life and liberty.

#### HONORING THE CAREER OF STEPHEN MCKENNEY STECK

#### HON. TOM FEENEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mr. FEENEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Stephen McKenney Steck for his 40 years of service to the WMFE public broadcasting stations that serve the greater Orlando area.

An Orlando native, Steve began his only career in 1959 at WFTV (then WLOF) as a television director and later as senior producer/director for news and public affairs programs.

Steve started a 40-year run at WMFE in 1967 as production manager and was appointed operations manager in 1970. In 1972, Steve was elected President of WMFE and held that position with distinction for 34 years.

Steve's major accomplishments during his tenure include moving WMFE's physical plant to a multi-million dollar broadcast center in East Orlando, the activation of public radio station 90.7 WMFE-FM, expanding both station's programming to a full 24-hour per day schedule, overseeing a program schedule viewed each week by more than 485,000 Central Florida households and a radio schedule listened to each week by more than 194,000 Central Florida residents.

Steve concluded a \$4 million expansion of the Public Broadcasting Center in 1992, a \$2 million reexpansion in 2003, and a \$10 million Campaign for Program Excellence in 2002 generating funds directed to local programming that connected the community in a manner not duplicated by local electronic media.

Steve recently concluded WMFE's \$7 million Campaign for Digital Television that activated WMFE-DT/Channel 23 in 2003. He has launched the creation of a new \$2.4 million program vision for these stations. A transition to digital radio broadcasting rests in the short-term future. Under his leadership, WMFE's annual budget has grown from \$250,000 to more than \$8 million.

At age 63, Steve attained a 10-year goal: starting in and finishing a marathon in all of the 50 states and the District of Columbia and on all 7 continents—including Antarctica! Steve is married to Desta L. Homer, a former teacher at Winter Springs High School in Seminole County. They have three adult children and five grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Steve for his years of service and dedication to his Orlando community. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Steve on his retirement and wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

#### INTRODUCTION OF REPAIRING YOUNG WOMEN'S LIVES AROUND THE WORLD ACT

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing the bipartisan Repairing Young Women's Lives Around the World Act, a bill

vital to saving the lives of women and their children around the world. This bill funds UNFPA (the United Nations Population Fund) strictly for the prevention, treatment, and repair of obstetric fistula.

More than two million women worldwide have obstetric fistula, which results from prolonged labor without medical attention. During delivery, the infant's head presses against the woman's pelvis for so long that the tissue dies and a hole develops between the woman's vagina and rectum, leaving the woman without control of her bladder or bowels and often resulting in the death of the infant. In addition, many women who have the condition are abandoned by their husbands and families because they are considered "unclean" and the women are often forced to beg or turn to prostitution to survive. The condition was once common throughout the world, but over the last century has been eradicated in Europe and North America through improved medical care. For example, New York's hospital for fistula patients, now the site of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, closed in 1895 because of diminishing cases.

Fortunately, UNFPA is working with partners on a global campaign to prevent and treat fistula, with the goal of making the condition as rare in Africa and Asia as it is in the developed world. In fact, UNFPA works in 56 countries, more than the U.S. currently does, countries with the severest of problems. Many of the nations where there is no USAID presence suffer under political turmoil and poor living conditions and serve as breeding grounds for terrorists.

I believe that this legislation would help to provide a concrete way to show that the U.S.

cares about women and children around the world. Now is the time to allow the U.S. to recommit to the maternal health of women and children around the world.

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APPLAUDING THE TEXAS STATE  
LEGISLATURE

**HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the Texas State legislature for passing House Bill 1098, which prevents mandatory human-papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination for middle school girls in the State of Texas until at least 2011.

This legislation was a necessary response to the ill-advised executive order signed by Governor Perry in February of this year, which requires every girl in the state of Texas to receive a vaccine against HPV. I stand tonight to encourage the Governor of Texas to quickly sign H.B. 1098 into law and return important healthcare choices to parents and physicians—not the state or Federal government.

Madam Speaker, HPV is a sexually transmitted disease of which two strains, types 16 and 18, are associated with about 70 percent of cervical cancers. In June of 2006, the Food and Drug Administration approved the first vaccine that protects against 4 types of HPV. As an OB/GYN physician, I applaud this achievement in modern medicine. However, I am greatly concerned with the trend in many states to introduce legislation or sign executive

orders mandating young girls—6th graders—receive the HPV vaccine in order to attend school.

States have historically established and enforced their own vaccine and immunization practices that dictate their school admittance policies.

Requiring school-aged children to receive certain vaccines in order to attend school started as a public health concern so as to avoid widespread outbreaks of communicable diseases. However, Madam Speaker, since HPV can only be spread through sexual contact, mandating this vaccine is unprecedented, and I believe it is an egregious intrusion by government into what should be a parent-physician-patient decision.

Accordingly, I have introduced legislation, the Parental Right to Decide Protection Act, which would prohibit federal funds from being used to implement any type of mandatory HPV vaccine program. We need to stand up against this government interference into the lives of our children, which side-steps parental rights and responsibilities.

This is why I am so encouraged by the action of the Texas State legislature to stand up for the rights of our children, protect the role of parents and preserve the physician-patient relationship.

Madam Speaker, our government should not insert itself into this conversation—and I want to join the many medical groups, patient groups and parental rights groups—to call on the Governor of Texas to sign this very important piece of legislation.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 3, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

## MAY 7

1:30 p.m.  
Appropriations  
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the National Institutes of Health: Frontiers of Science.  
SD-116

## MAY 8

10 a.m.  
Finance  
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Medicare prescription drug benefit.  
SD-215  
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
To hold hearings to examine community integration and recovery, focusing on transforming mental health and substance abuse systems of care.  
SD-628  
Judiciary  
To hold hearings to examine privacy and civil liberties concerns, focusing on the REAL ID Act (Public Law 109-13).  
SD-226

2:30 p.m.  
Appropriations  
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine the policies and funding necessary for reducing U.S. oil dependence relating to the results of an analysis conducted to assess the economic impact of implementing the Energy Security Leadership Council's recommendations to the Nation.  
SD-192  
Intelligence  
Closed business meeting to consider certain intelligence matters.  
SH-219

## MAY 9

9:30 a.m.  
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
To hold hearings to examine farm bill policy proposals relating to farm and energy issues and rural development.  
SR-328A

## Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine climate change relating to national security threats.  
SD-419

## Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine on benefits legislation.  
SD-562

10 a.m.

## Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine improving energy efficiency, increasing the use of renewable sources of energy, and reducing the carbon footprint on the Capitol complex.  
SR-301

10:30 a.m.

## Appropriations

## Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of Defense.  
SD-192

2:30 p.m.

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

## Consumer Affairs, Insurance, and Automotive Safety Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) safety.  
SR-253

## Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Dell L. Dailey, of South Dakota, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large, and Mark P. Lagon, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, with the rank of Ambassador at Large.  
SD-419

3 p.m.

## Appropriations

## Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of the Treasury.  
SD-192

## MAY 10

9:30 a.m.

## Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Joseph Timothy Kelliher, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and R. Lyle Laverty, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife.  
SD-366

## Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending legislative business.  
SR-485

## Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

## Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine a status report on reform efforts by the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Management.  
SD-342

10 a.m.

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

## Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the effects of climate change and ocean acidification on living marine resources.  
SR-253

## Appropriations

## State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of State and foreign operations.  
SD-192

2 p.m.

## Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael J. Sullivan, of Massachusetts, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.  
SD-226

2:30 p.m.

## Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine violent Islamist extremism, focusing on government efforts to defeat it.  
SD-342

## Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.  
SH-219

## MAY 16

10 a.m.

## Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine rogue online pharmacies, focusing on the growing problem of internet drug trafficking.  
SD-226

## Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael K. Kussman, of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs.  
SD-562

2:30 p.m.

## Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Business meeting to markup S. 1256, to amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize loan programs under that Act.  
SR-428A

## MAY 17

10 a.m.

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

## Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine rail safety reauthorization.  
SR-253

## MAY 23

9:30 a.m.

## Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine on health legislation.  
SD-562

## POSTPONEMENTS

## MAY 4

9:30 a.m.

## Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine Russia, focusing on the reemergence of Russia as a major political and economic power.  
CHOB311